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Congress workers celebrate party's victory in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

KARNATAKA POLLS 2023 DECIDE

TOTAL SEATS: **224**
● SEATS WON
● VOTE SHARE

HOW THE PENDULUM SWUNG SINCE 1994

	1994	1999	2004	2008	2013	2018	2023
BJP	40 • 16.99%	44 • 20.69%	79 • 28.33%	110 • 33.86%	40 • 19.89%	104 • 36.22%	66 • 36%
Cong	34 • 26.95%	132 • 40.84%	65 • 35.27%	80 • 34.76%	122 • 36.59%	78 • 38.04%	135 • 42.9%
JD	115 • 33.54%						
JD(S)		10 • 10.42%	58 • 20.77%	28 • 18.96%	40 • 20.19%	37 • 18.36%	19 • 13.3%
Oth	35 • 22.52%	38 • 28.05%	22 • 15.63%	06 • 12.42%	32 • 23.33%	05 • 7.38%	04 • 7.8%

VOTER MOOD SWING

+4.86% In favour of Congress compared to 2018

-5.06% Away from JD(S)

-0.22% Away from BJP

ANALYSIS

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA

A 'BIG TENT' SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

IF livelihood issues bent the rainbow towards the Congress in Karnataka, the pot of electoral gold at the end of it gives the Grand Old Party the lifeline it needed in national politics. At 136 seats and 43% vote share, it's the biggest verdict any party has got in the southern state since 1989 — signalling the return of its 'big tent' politics.

In fact, the dual meaning contained at the macro level — connecting the local to the national — is only one of a series of factors that played out like a symphony for the Congress. The final decision on the Chief Minister is pending, but one of the proposals that came to be floated — after the precise contours of the win were clear — was quite revelatory.

It will most likely not come to pass, but as a hypothetical model — a narrative device — it helps frame how the victory was the work of a whole orchestra of factors. This was the idea of having a quartet of faces at the top, with three deputy CMs: one each from the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, plus one Dalit leader. That is, assuming Siddaramaiah, from the Kuruba shepherd community who represents the backwards, as the CM.

● Siddaramaiah is the champion of 'Ahinda' politics — itself an amalgam of backwards, minorities and Dalits, a whole sector that has been revived.

● KPCC chief D K Shivakumar, the other strong contender for CM and a shoo-in for the deputy's post, pulled in a sizeable chunk of Vokkaliga votes, reducing the JD(S) to an also-ran and tipping the scales in the crucial Old Mysuru region with 37/59 seats.

● M B Patil, the party's campaign committee chief who had just a month ago hinted at his own candidacy for the top post, can claim to be the face of a vote-swing that would have surprised outside observers: the Lingayats of the north. Even if the 37 Lingayats who have won under the Congress flag answer to all descriptions, including BJP rebel Laxman Savadi, it does speak of a perceptible erosion of a solid vote bank for the BJP.

● The idea of giving Karnataka its first Dalit CM ever, which DKS sparked off in the run-up by mentioning AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, speaks to the party's very strong showing of 21/36 in seats reserved for SCs. Even 'SC-Left' voters, sought to be benefited by the BJP's move on internal reservation, seemed to have voted GOP. Leaders like G Parameshwara and K H Muniyappa represent this spectrum.

And this is not counting the near-sweep of tribal constituencies for the Congress, at 14 out of 15 seats reserved for STs.

If one considers that the Muslims too shed their ambivalence and backed the GOP unequivocally, that it registered victories in all five regions (including six seats in the saffron-flavoured coast) and also won a majority of rural seats while splitting urban seats half and half, it completes the rainbow. And the 80-85% strike rate in the constituencies that Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra touched is what the party will hope can travel up the highway to the north of the country.

CONGRESS: 'HASTA' LA VISTA, BJP

- PM MODI'S CHARISMA FAILS TO WIN VOTES FOR BJP
- JDS SUFFERS THE WORST-EVER DEFEAT
- ELECTING LP LEADER, CM TO BE TOUGH FOR CONG

RAHUL GANDHI, CONG LEADER

Poor people defeated crony capitalists in Karnataka... In the state, the hate market has closed down and shops of love have opened

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

We shall serve Karnataka with even more vigour in the times to come. Congratulations to the Congress for their victory. My best wishes to them in fulfilling people's aspirations

B S YEDIYURAPPA, BJP LEADER

We accept the mandate of the people with humility... BJP will continue to be the voice of people and we will work hard to strengthen the party

MAMATA BANERJEE, TMC CHIEF

This is the beginning of the end of the BJP before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. People have voted against the arrogance and intolerance of BJP

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, KPCC president DK Shivakumar (L) and CLP leader Siddaramaiah after the party's massive victory in Karnataka, at the party office in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

DKS, Siddu in CM race; Kharge out

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE race for chief minister's chair is now between KPCC president D K Shivakumar and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah as AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge late on Saturday evening ruled himself out for the post.

Kharge said he will now focus on winning the 2024 Lok Sabha polls after gaining much confidence as Congress swept the Karnataka election, ridding South India of BJP rule.

The party's newly elected legislators, who have been instructed to rush to Bengaluru, will elect their leader at a meeting slated to be held in a hotel on Sunday evening. The meeting is a mere formality as the decision is left to the party high command, a source said.

The leaders, including AICC general secretaries Randeep Singh Surjewala and K C Venugopal, arrived at the decision to choose between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the CM post in a meeting held at Kharge's residence.

Kharge, a Dalit strongman, has put the 'Dalit CM' issue on the backburner for the sake of the party, in the process ruling out another CM aspirant, ex-deputy CM G Parameshwara. The latter and K H Muniyappa, also a Dalit leader and a strong party loyalist, may be placated with deputy CM posts.

The Veerashaiva Lingayats lobbying for the post also cannot be ruled out. The name of M B Patil, among others, may also come to the fore.

Both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah have a sway in Karnataka politics. The latter championed the interests of minorities and the former emerged as Vokkaliga community's leader in old Mysuru.

Vokkaliga leaders held a meeting in Bengaluru to back Shivakumar as CM and are likely to garner support of their community's religious heads. As for Siddaramaiah, his loyalists, including some MLAs, have also been backing him to the hilt for the top post.

RAMU PATIL & ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

CONGRESS on Saturday swept the Assembly elections in Karnataka by securing a comfortable majority in the 224-member House, riding on a strong anti-incumbency wave against the BJP government and on its sustained campaign woven around five poll guarantees.

In a big win ahead of Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana as well as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Congress won 136 seats with a vote share of 43%. Compared to the 2018 Assembly polls, its vote share went up by 5% and seats by 58.

Congress did well in all regions, except Coastal Karnataka, where BJP managed to hold its ground. In the Old Mysore region, the party made big gains at the expense of JDS, which took a big hit in a do-or-die battle. The regional party's vote share dropped from 18.36% to 13.3% and seats from 37 to 19. The party, which was hoping to play a crucial role in new government formation in case of a fractured mandate, ended up with worst-ever performance.

BJP managed to retain its 2018 vote share of 36.22% as it polled 36% this time. It gained new votes in the Old Mysore region. In Bengaluru, BJP managed to retain 15 of 28 seats. Surprisingly, BJP lost all seats in its stronghold Kodagu.

Congress' decisive victory came as a big boost for AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's leadership. Kharge and other central leaders managed to ensure that the party worked as one cohesive unit. They also ensured the party leaders in the state stopped publicly expressing their chief ministerial ambition. BJP was never given an opportunity to exploit the Congress' fault lines.

Congress carefully crafted its strategy to show that its CM aspirants former CM Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar were on the same page on all issues.

The poll guarantee cards that were distributed among voters were signed by both of them and all election material had their photographs. As the results started trickling in, Shivakumar turned emotional and attributed the win to party workers, while Siddaramaiah called it a mandate against PM Modi.

Congress' sustained campaign against corruption, 40% commission charge, price rise, unemployment and governance-deficit seems to have had an impact on voters.

Many senior BJP leaders, including ministers and party's national general secretary CT Ravi, lost, indicating that apart from local factors, there was anger against the ruling party. The saffron party's last-minute efforts made no impact on voters. BJP's experiment of fielding a large number of new faces to beat anti-incumbency and its social engineering of increasing reservation failed to impress voters. They were also not swayed by emotional issues, which took center-stage in the political debate at the fag end of electioneering. Even communal issues that hogged the headlines seem to have had no impact on voters.

Unlike in 2018, when BJP won 104 seats, this time party's Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa was not at the helm of affairs. The party went to polls with Basavaraj Bommai as CM. As soon as the results started coming in, Congress got into a celebratory mood with workers dancing outside its state headquarters. The party will soon start the process of electing the legislature party leader and next CM, which is a next big challenge. While BJP leaders will introspect on the reasons for the defeat, the results have put a big question mark on JDS's future.

GOVERNOR ACCEPTS BOMMAI'S RESIGNATION

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai submitted his resignation letter to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday evening after his party's defeat in the Assembly elections. A release from Raj Bhavan said the Governor accepted the resignation letter.

Sowmya loses by 17 votes

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

BJP's CK Ramamurthy was declared elected from Jayanagar Assembly constituency in Bengaluru after several rounds of recounting on Saturday night. He won by a slender margin of 17 votes against Congress candidate Sowmya Reddy.

After 16 rounds of counting, Sowmya was declared elected by a margin of 294 votes. But the BJP candidate appealed for recounting. After recounting, the officials declared Ramamurthy the winner. But she sought recounting accusing the officials of foul play. BTM Layout MLA Ramalinga Reddy and father of Sowmya too arrived at the centre.

Tension prevailed when some Congressmen accused officials of working at the behest of BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and MLA R Ashoka.

TOP 5 WINNERS AND LOSERS

This Assembly elections have thrown up surprise results with many bigwigs of Congress, BJP and JDS winning and losing by a huge margin

Coastal K'taka BJP's face saver amidst rout

Mangaluru: BJP managed to hold on to its stronghold of Coastal Karnataka but had to settle for just 13 seats compared to 2018 when it had won 16 of the 18 constituencies. While the Congress improved its tally from 2 to 6, JDS drew a blank in the region. According to political pundits, Hindutva factor helped BJP to offset the anti-incumbency wave to a large extent | P4

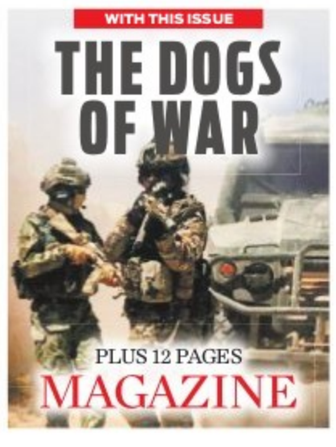
In a big upset, Shettar loses by huge margin

Hubballi: Congress candidate Jagadish Shettar, who crossed over after being denied a ticket by BJP, was defeated by first-timer Mahesh Tenginkai of the saffron party in one of the biggest upsets of the polls. Shettar was aiming for seventh consecutive win, but voters stood solidly behind BJP, ensuring the highest-ever margin recorded in the poll history of Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency | P5

JDS faces major blow in Ramnagara fortress

Bengaluru: JDS faced a humiliating defeat in Ramnagara district, the party's bastion in Old Mysuru region. It lost three of the four seats in the district. Its only victory was in Channapattana that was retained by former CM HD Kumaraswamy, who defeated BJP candidate CP Yogeshwar. His actor son Nikhil Kumaraswamy lost to Congress candidate Iqbal Hussain in Ramanagara constituency | P5

INSIDE KHARGE FACTOR HELPS CONG GAIN | P4 · BJP COMMITTED TOO MANY ERRORS | P5 · AMID CONG ONSLAUGHT, BJP RETAINS B'LURU | P6 · CASTE FACTOR AND NEW COALITION | P8 · RAHUL: LOVE WINS OVER POLITICS OF HATE | P9 · PM CONGRATULATES CONG FOR VICTORY, BJP TO INTROSPECT | P9



Drugs worth ₹15K cr seized in biggest haul off Kerala coast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

IN what may be the biggest ever drug haul in the country, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Navy have seized 2,500 kg of high-purity methamphetamine worth ₹15,000 crore from a ship off the Kerala coast, the anti-drug agency said on Saturday. A Pakistani national has been detained in connection with it.

Speaking to reporters about the joint operation with the Navy in Kochi on Saturday, NCB deputy director general (operations) Sanjay Kumar Singh termed it the largest methamphetamine seizure in India.

The NCB launched Operation Samudragupt in January 2022 following intelligence inputs on trafficking of heroin and other drugs over the maritime route in the Indian Ocean region. Under the operation, the NCB has so far seized over 3,200 kg meth, 500 kg heroin and 529 kg hashish.

The drug was sourced from Death Crescent, a region comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. The NCB got information on the movement of a mothership carrying a huge quantity of meth from the Makran coast bordering Pakistan and Iran.

The Indian Navy identified the route the vessel would take to distribute the contraband. Subsequently, it intercepted the vessel and seized 134 sacks of meth. A speedboat was also recovered from the mothership.

EVIDENCE OF PAKISTAN HAND

Sources said evidence of Pakistan's involvement in drug trafficking was clear as the sacks used to pack the contraband had the seals of Pakistani brands of rice and other food products

EXPRESS READ

Narco-terror module busted in J&K, 4 held

Srinagar: In a major operation against inter-state narco-terror smuggling syndicate originating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), security forces arrested four smugglers involved in running the module. The four were arrested when they were in the process of exchanging narcotics and cash among themselves, an official said.

CHHATTISGARH

model of women empowerment

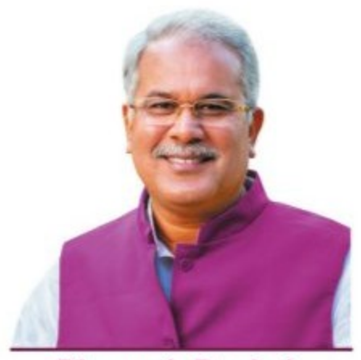
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

ADVERTORIAL

NEW DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

According to the India Index report 2020-21 released by NITI Aayog, Chhattisgarh ranks first in terms of Gender Equality.

If women are weak, then society cannot move forward. In today's era, women are not behind men in any field, and it is the government's basic duty to provide equal rights and opportunities to women in society. We have made significant efforts in the state to empower women and fulfill this duty. As a result, Chhattisgarh is now the top state in the country in terms of gender equality. Women here are writing lakhs of new stories of self-reliance and entrepreneurship. The Danteshwari Fighters, a group of women deployed in Naxal areas of Chhattisgarh, are working bravely and have busted many Naxalite camps. Today, when the results of any examination are announced, women are often at the top of the merit list. Chhattisgarh has a better condition for women in country. Chhattisgarh has the highest representation of women in the Legislative Assembly.



Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

CHHATTISGARH RANKS FIRST IN TERMS OF GENDER EQUALITY.

According to the India Index report 2020-21 released by NITI Aayog, Chhattisgarh ranks first in terms of gender equality. As a result of state government's dedicated efforts to improve maternal and child health, the MMR of Chhattisgarh which was 159 between 2016 and 2018 has now come down to 137. Chhattisgarh has made great strides in eradication of malnutrition and anaemia. Mukhyamantri Supashan Abhiyan was commenced on October 2, 2019, and since then 2 lakh 65 thousand children in Chhattisgarh have become malnutrition free and one lakh 50 lakh women of the state have been cured of anaemia. Chhattisgarh ranks third in the country for providing IFA (Iron Folic Acid) supplementation to children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women under Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

THE LOCAL RESOURCES TO OPEN NEW AVENUES

To Empower Women, it is important to ensure their rights, their safety and to provide them opportunities to grow and move ahead on the path of success, along with proper healthcare and education facilities. With this vision and mission, Chhattisgarh Government has adopted the policy of making women financially independent while ensuring their rights. On the initiative of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, creative skills of women have been combiled with the local resources to open new avenues for their personal, social and economic development.

2.54 LAKH WOMEN SELF-HELP GROUPS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH BIHAAN

As a result of the women empowerment policies implemented in Chhattisgarh, more than 50 thousand women have now become financially self-dependent and they are also contributing towards the economic progress of the state. Besides their sucess in the forest produce business, rural women in the District Mineral Trust Fund Board are also preparing policies for themselves as members of the Gram Sabha. About 300 rural industrial parks have been started in the state, where women are getting good employment opportunities. In the same sequence, about four thousand sisters have been appointed as 'BC Sakhi' to provide banking facilities in remote rural areas. Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission: About 27 lakh women from poor families are now associated with 02 lakh 54 thousand self-help groups.

IN BIHAN ABOUT 27,00,000 WOMEN ARE ENGAGED

WOMEN OF DANTEWADA HAVE ESTABLISHED THE BRAND OF DANNEX WITH THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION

Bastar's Danteshwari Fighters, who are courageously taking a front against the Naxalites in the dense forests of Bastar, have become an inspiration for the entire country. In the gauthans built in every village of the state under Godhan Nyaya Yojana, about 45 percent participation is of women. Empowered through the economic activities of gauthans, these women have started supporting their families with their income. New concepts such as Rural Industrial Park and C-Mart store has given a new dimension to the economic empowerment of women. Better market is available for the products made by women in gauthans. The female employees working DANNEX Garment Factory of Dantewada, a tribal district of Bastar, have set a striking example of economic empowerment by establishing the brand of DANNEX in the country and abroad. Mahua Laddu made by women of Bijapur, Tikhur Shake of Kondagaon, tamarind-candy of Sukma and Phool Jhadu of Narayanpur are also in demand.

NO. 1 IN GENDER EQUALITY IN COUNTRY

IN GOUTHAN

1. 13,943 LAKH SELF-HELP GROUPS
2. 1,65,688 WOMEN
3. 100 CRORE TURNOVER

36981/1

Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission

ADVERTORIAL

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP POLICY

The more empowered women are, the faster will be the development of the state. State Government is implementing Women Entrepreneurship Policy 2023-28 in Chhattisgarh with an aim to give a new height to the potential of women. Under this policy, financial aid has been provisioned for women to set up enterprises, various kinds of exemptions have been given and a number of provisions have been made for women entrepreneurs of the state interested in manufacturing venture projects. In addition, loan facility of Rs 10 to 50 lakh, exemption from electricity duty, additional stamp duty, transport grant, exemption from mandi fee, rent grant is also being provided. A provision of 5 percent additional grant and one year additional exemption has also been made for women self-help groups and start-up enterprises established by women, this will further boost the participation of women in industry and trade.

IN ADDITION, LOAN FACILITY OF
RS 10 TO 50 LAKH

FINANCIAL AID OF RS 50 THOUSAND FOR KANYA VIVAAH

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel has taken several decisions in the interest of women. He increased the amount of financial aid given under Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana twice during his tenure. In 2019, this amount was increased from Rs 15 thousand to Rs 25 thousand and now it has been increased to Rs 50 thousand. The amount of social security pension to the destitute, elderly, disabled, widow and abandoned women has also been increased.

NINE NEW WOMEN'S COLLEGES

In order to advance women in the field of education, it is important to create awareness about women's rights. This is why 2239 legal and women awareness camps were organized last year. This year, the budget of Mahila Jagruti Shivir item has been doubled from Rs 4.85 crore to Rs 9.33 crore. Moreover, women are also being educated about their legal rights through through Chief Minister Mahtari Nyaya Rath of State Women's Commission. With the opening of new women's colleges in nine district headquarters of the state, better facilities of higher education is being made available for female students.

1 — 2239 LEGAL AND WOMEN AWARENESS CAMPS

BUDGET OF MAHILA JAGRUTI SHIVIR RS 4.85 CRORE - RS 9.33 CRORE — 2

3 — 10 NEW GIRL'S COLLEGES IN STATE

RATION CARDS ISSUED AND HOUSES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF WOMEN

Chhattisgarh government is giving one percent discount on land and property registration in the name of women. Ration cards and house allotments are being made in the name of women. In order to safeguard women's rights in government services, arrangements have been made to compulsorily keep a woman representative in the committees formed for recruitment, promotion, scrutiny of documents. To prevent sexual crimes, a committee has been formed in each office, which investigates the matter and submits a report to the senior officers for taking necessary action.

MAHILA KOSH BUDGET OF RS 25 CRORES

To encourage the women groups for taking loan from Mahila Kosh to conduct economic activities, State Government has waived off the previous loan of Rs 12 crore taken by the women self-help groups. Moreover, the upper limit for the loan amount has also been increased by two to four times. A historic increase has been made in the budget of Mahila Kosh. Previously, annual allocation of only one or two crore was available to Mahila Kosh, but in the year 2023-24, an annual budget of Rs 25 crore has been allocated under this head. In the financial year 2022-23, Chhattisgarh Mahila Kosh sanctioned the loan amount of Rs 10 crore 70 lakh to more than 10 thousand 500 women, which is the highest in last 5 years. State Government is planning to implement new Kaushalya Samridhi Yojana, under which women will be provided loan at 3 percent interest rate on easy terms for business purposes. For this, an additional budget of Rs 25 crore has been approved.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT
50,000 RUPEES
FOR DAUGHTER

HOSTELS FOR WORKING WOMEN

Along with working hostels in every division, women's hostels have been established in the district headquarters. Help desks for women are being operated in the police stations. Abhivyakti app has been developed by Chhattisgarh Police for women. Through women helpline number 181 and Sakhi Centre, immediate help and shelter can be provided to the victimized women. So far 37 thousand 158 women have been provided assistance and 13 thousand 750 women have been given shelter. Assistance has been provided to 4331 women in cases of domestic violence through Nava Bihan Yojana.

WORKING WOMEN HOSTEL IN
33 DISTRICTS

MORE HONOR AND MORE HONORARIUM

The state government has increased the amount of honorarium for the female workers who are taking care of the health and well-being of a large number of women and children in the state. In this year's budget, the monthly honorarium of Anganbadi workers in 46 thousand 660 Anganbadi centers of the state has been increased from Rs 06 thousand 500 to Rs 10 thousand per month. The honorarium of Anganbadi assistants has been increased from Rs 03 thousand 250 to Rs 5 thousand per month. The honorarium of mini Anganbadi workers has been increased from Rs 04 thousand 500 to Rs 07 thousand 500 per month. In addition to the incentive amount given to Mitanin sisters, a provision has also been made in the budget to give honorarium at the rate of Rs. 2200 per month. Honorarium of cooks, who prepare mid-day meals has also been increased in the new budget, which will benefit many rural women.

WOMEN HELP DESK IN **370** POLICE STATIONS

SAKHI CENTERS IN **27** DISTRICTS

2800 NEW POSTS OF WOMEN HOME GUARDS

36981/1

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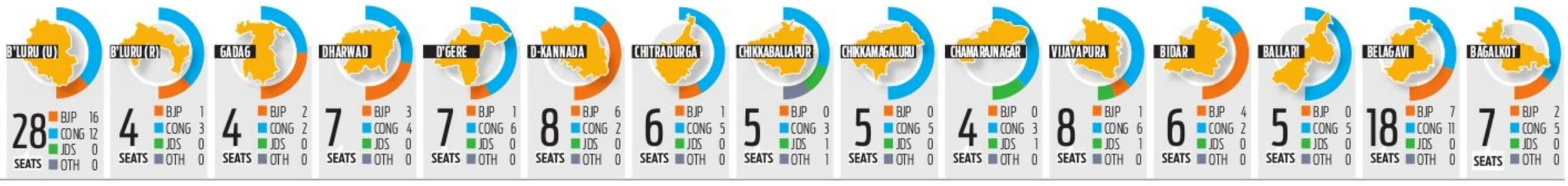
HOW THE DISTRICTS VOTED



BJP HITS DUST, CONGRESS GOLD DUST

(From left) Congress leader Siddaramaiah gestures to the crowd after his victory in Mysuru on Saturday; Congress workers celebrate in Belagavi; AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge feeds a sweet to Siddaramaiah as KPCC chief DK Shivakumar looks on | UDAYASHANKAR S , KPN, VINOD KUMAR T

People have taught the BJP a great lesson for indulging in corrupt practices. We will give a stable government to the people of Karnataka

Priyank Kharge, Chittapur, Congress

People have accepted me as their daughter. We will strengthen people's confidence by fulfilling the five guarantees

Laxmi Hebbalkar, Belagavi Rural, Congress

I thank the people of Gangavati for the victory and will work towards building a stronger party base in Kalyana Karnataka region

Janardhan Reddy, Gangavati, KRPP

By giving me a clear victory, the voters have once again proved their support for BJP. The win is due to the blessings of my earlier Guru Jagadish Shettar

Mahesh Tenginakai, Hubballi-Dharwad Central, BJP

When I quit the BJP, Congress leaders and party workers welcomed me warmly and struggled for my victory

Laxman Savadi, Athani, Congress

KITTUR K'TAKA

Neglect of Lingayat netas, campaign by brass boomerangs on saffron party

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

EVEN as the BJP national and state leadership resorted to all possible political and personal campaigns in the Kittur Karnataka region, where 56 seats were at stake, the party finally put up a miserable show and Congress went on to win 37 seats. In the process, several so-called top guns of BJP lost and the party ended up winning just 18 seats.

The post-poll analysis indicated that the BJP's decision to remove BS Yeddyurappa as CM, neglect former chief minister Jagadish Shettar and former deputy chief minister Laxman Savadi boomeranged on the party in this Lingayat heartland. An upset dominant Lingayat community dumped BJP and rallied behind Congress. A convincing victory by Vinay Kulkarni, who was projected as the Lingayat-Panchamasali face of Congress against Amrut Desai of BJP (Lingayat), showed how Lingayat votes swung from BJP to Congress in the Dharwad constituency. A similar shift also helped Congress win Badami, Hungund, Bilagi, Mudhol and many other seats in Haveri, Gadag, Bagalkot and Vijayapura.

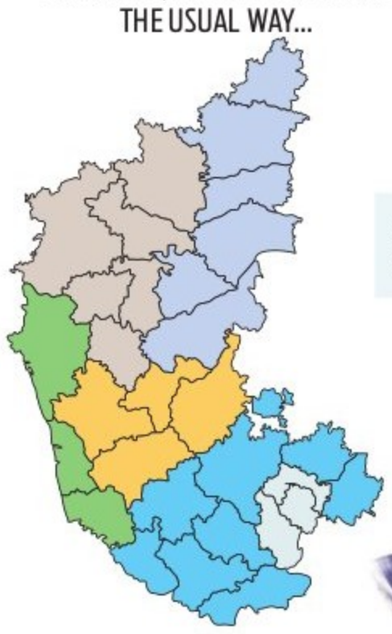
Several leaders in the region felt issues like hijab, halal, jhatka cut and Bajrang Dal backfired on the party. BJP's decision to bank on rallies and roadshows by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to divert people's attention from core issues also failed to bolster BJP's prospects, they said.

Among prominent BJP leaders who have bitten the dust in the region include Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol, Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani and Minister BC Patil. However, Vijayapura sitting MLA **Basangouda Patil Yatnal** emerged winner despite his communal campaigns.

SEATS: 56
Cong: 37
BJP: 18
JDS:1
OTH:0

CM Basavaraj Bommai, who faced a weak Congress rival in Yasirahmed Khan Pathan in Shiggaon, won by a margin of around 36,000 votes. Also, five candidates from Belagavi registered landslide victories, winning by a margin of over 50,000 votes. They are, Laxmi Hebbalkar from Belagavi Rural, Laxman Savadi from Athani, Satish Jarkiholi from Yamakanamardi, Ganesh Hukkeri from Chikkodi, all from Congress and Vittal Halgekar of BJP from Khanapur.

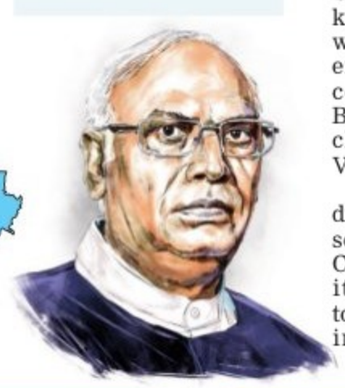
A FEW REGIONS THREW UP SURPRISES, WHILE SOME VOTED THE USUAL WAY...



KALYANA K'TAKA

Kharge factor helps Cong gain supremacy

SEATS: 41
CONG: 26 JDS:3
BJP: 10 OTH:2



RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI @ Kalaburagi

IT was a day to celebrate for the Congress in Kalyana Karnataka region with the party winning 26 of the 41 constituencies. Kalyana Karnataka comprises seven districts — Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Ballari, and Vijayanagara.

The BJP, however, faced a drubbing by bagging a mere 10 seats, down from 19 in 2018. The Congress, however, increased its tally — from 18 in 2018 to 26 in the recent polls. Capturing Kalyana Karnataka was a matter of prestige for the Congress as AICC president **Mallikarjun Kharge** hails from Kalaburagi district.

JDS, which positioned itself as the 'kingmaker' till the results were announced, had to be happy with just 3 seats, down one since 2018.

Mining baron and former minister Gali Janardhana Reddy, who founded the Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha after severing ties with the BJP, won from Gangavathi in Koppal district. Lata Mallikarjun, an independent, emerged victorious in Harapanahalli of Vijayanagara district.

The BJP failed to open its account in Ballari and Yadgir districts. It won 2 seats each in both the districts in 2018.

The saffron party's strength was reduced from 5 to 2 in Kalaburagi and 3 to 1 in Koppal district. In Vijayanagara, its strength has come to 1 from 2 seats. In Raichur, it retained 2 seats. In Bidar, however, the party has bagged 4 seats, up 2 since 2018.

Political pundits opine that the region was neglected by both the Union and State governments in all aspects, including not setting up of a Railway division in Kalaburagi, not sanctioning AIIMS to Raichur, not providing sufficient funds to Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board, PSI recruitment scam that broke in Kalaburagi, and the Congress' 40% commission charges proved to be fatal for the BJP. The Congress, by making Kharge the AICC president, reaped rich benefits as the veteran leader hails from the region. As far as Bidar district is concerned, experts feel that PM Narendra Modi's visit to Humnabad and visits by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the district helped the party.

CENTRAL K'TAKA & MALNAD

Mixed bag for Cong, all's not well for BJP

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

THE Congress has recaptured its bastion of Central Karnataka (Chitradurga and Davanagere), and Malnad districts (Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga) by winning 19 of the 25 seats. In Chikkamagaluru, which revived the political career of former PM Indira Gandhi in 1978, the Congress has swept all five seats. The party also won six of the seven segments in Davanagere, five of the six constituencies in Chitradurga, and three of the seven seats in Shivamogga.

In the 2018 elections, BJP won 20 of the 25 seats, and Congress five. This time it is a clean sweep for Congress as it has not only managed to recapture its old bastion but also reduced BJP's seats to 5 from 20.

SEATS: 25
Cong: 19
BJP: 5
JDS:1
Oth: 0

BJP national general secretary **C T Ravi,** who had won from 2004 to 2018, suffered defeat against his former close aide HD Thammaiah (Congress). DN Jeevaraj, who won from 2004 to 2013, now suffered a hat-trick defeat at the hands of TD Rajegowda in Sringeri. Congress' KC Veerendra has become a giant killer by defeating GH Thippareddy (BJP). BJP candidate Renukacharya lost to Shanthanagowda DG (Congress) in Honnali. Congress candidate Madhu Bangarappa defeated his brother and BJP candidate and sitting MLA Kumar Bangarappa in Soraba. Some prominent Congress leaders also suffered defeat. Former ministers Kimmane Ratnakar lost in Thirthahalli and H Anjaneya in Holalkere. JDS candidate YSV Datta suffered defeat in Kadur.

OLD MYSURU

Split in Vokkaliga votes, Ahinda unity help GOP

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

ELECTIONS in the Old Mysuru region, which had turned into a battleground to take control of the Vokkaliga heartland, have been swept by Congress. The party repeated its performance of 2013 and 1999, when it fought under the leadership of then KPCC chief SM Krishna.

Congress took out the Mekedatu Yatra, Freedom March and launched its poll campaign from Kolar. It also took advantage of Rahul Gandhi's Bharath Jodo Yatra and reached out to all Assembly segments during the Vijayasankalpa Yatra.

SEATS: 59
Cong: 37
BJP: 6
JDS:14
Oth:2

Both CLP leader **Siddaramaiah** and KPCC chief DK Shivakumar toured all the segments here and Shivakumar also appealed to his Vokkaliga community to give him a chance to occupy the top post. The party also fielded Vokkaligas to cut into the community votes that went the JDS way in the previous election. In many seats, there was a triangular contest and BJP did well in Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Chikkaballapur and Tumakuru districts. BJP's increased vote share and its little inroads into the Vokkaliga vote base too helped Congress win many seats.

Though the Panchajanya Yatra by JDS attracted large crowds, it did not convert into votes as its vote share dipped from 18% to 14. Congress won over right and left Dalits and also microscopic communities as the region saw a split in SC votes. BJP's campaign focusing on the increased reservation for SC/STs, Vokkaligas and Lingayats too did not help.

COASTAL K'TAKA

BJP does not drown, but gasps to stay afloat

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

DESPITE a strong wave in favour of Congress, the BJP managed to hold on to its forte of Coastal Karnataka although it ceded some of its ground to the Grand Old Party. The BJP which had won 16 of 18 seats in 2018, had to settle for just 13 seats now. The Congress improved its tally from 2 to 6. JDS drew a blank.

According to political pundits, Hindutva factor helped the BJP to offset the anti-incumbency wave to a large extent and Congress' proposal to ban Bajrang Dal further helped the saffron party to consolidate its votes.

SEATS: 19
Cong: 6
BJP: 13
JDS:0
Oth:0

BJP was almost routed in Uttara Kannada where it won just two of the six seats. Speaker and six-time Sirsi MLA **Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri** had to bite the dust for the first time.

RV Deshpande (Congress) won for the record ninth time from Haliyal. Mankal Vaidya (Congress) won from Bhatkal by a huge margin of more than 32,000 votes. In Kumta, it was a humiliating defeat for Congress leader Margaret Alva's son Nivedith Alva as he got just 19,270 votes.

In Udupi, it was a clean sweep for BJP where all of its five candidates won. Except for V Sunil Kumar, who won from Karkala by a margin of over 4,600 votes, four others won by a comfortable margin.

In Dakshina Kannada, the BJP won six of the eight seats. In Puttur, Congress' Ashok Kumar Rai won by a margin of 4149 votes. UT Khader (Congress) registered his fifth straight win from Mangaluru while veteran Congress leader B Ramanath Rai lost.

People have chosen secularism, harmony over hatred: Siddu

K SHIVA KUMAR AND KK KARTHIK @ Mysuru

IT was a festive atmosphere outside the residence of former chief minister Siddaramaiah in Mysuru, even as trends started showing a majority for the Congress. He said people have voted against the party which attempted to destroy the fabric of secularism.

Your first reaction to the Congress victory?

This is a big victory for the Congress and people of Karnataka, who were fed up with the BJP government's attempts to destroy the fabric of secularism, and spreading hatred. There was a strong anti-incumbency wave, and the 40% corruption charges made people vote against it. People have chosen honesty, stability over instability and harmony over hatred, and a stable government that delivers on its promises.

Is this mandate against PM Modi, who campaigned aggressively in Karnataka?

PM Narendra Modi came to Karnataka at least 20 times and held 20 rallies. BJP did not come to power either in 2008 or 2018; there was no people's mandate. It carried out Operation Kamala and spent a lot of money on it. The result is a mandate against Modi and Amit Shah.

In the previous election, Lingayats and Vokkaligas stayed away from Congress, but this time the scenario is different...

A good number of Vokkaligas, Lingayats and Brahmins have voted Congress which is the only secular party of India, taking all communities and religions together.

Were you apprehensive about Operation Kamala?

I was not apprehensive, but BJP is known for such operations and can go to any extent. We believed we would get 130+ .

Is this the result of guarantees and freebies announced by Congress?

Modi spoke ill about our guarantee schemes but we will implement them as soon as we take power. I have presented 13 budgets and I know the financial position of the state, while Modi doesn't. Managing Rs 50,000-60,000 crore is not a big thing, Karnataka can afford it.

I am deeply disappointed with poll outcome: Bommai

On the results...

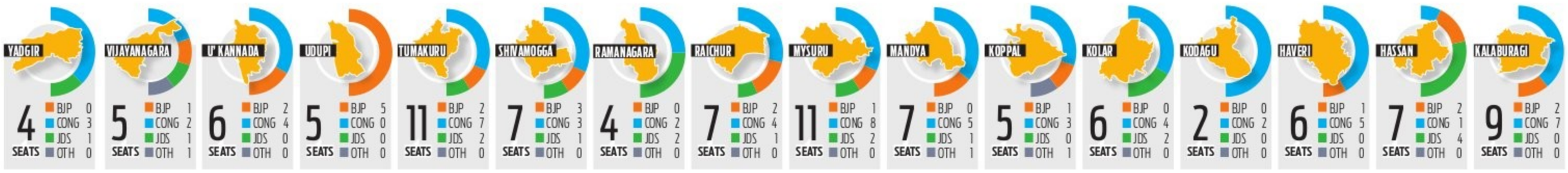
In spite of our best efforts, from PM Narendra Modi to party workers, we have failed to bring an impact. I am deeply disappointed with the overall results.

On taking responsibility for the defeat...

As chief minister and head of the government, I take complete responsibility. We will take it in our stride and go ahead to come back stronger.

On the next course of action...

We will get details of the results and we will analyse the reasons for the defeat. Apart from retrospecting the defeat, we will improve where we flawed, bridge the gaps we overlooked and reorganise the party for the 2024 LS polls.



JDS fortress Ramanagara crumbles

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

IN a major blow, the Janata Dal (Secular) has lost three out of four seats in Ramanagara district, which has traditionally been the party's bastion in the Old Mysuru region. Among the losers is actor Nikhil Kumaraswamy, grandson of JDS patriarch H D Deve Gowda, who lost to Congress candidate Iqbal Hussain from Ramanagara constituency. However, the only saving grace for the party in the district is the victory of Nikhil's father and JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy who retained his seat in Channapattana. HDK defeated BJP candidate CP Yogeshwara.

The contest in Kanakapura which had assumed significance after the BJP fielded former deputy CM R Ashoka against KPCC president D K Shivakumar ended in anticlimax as the latter won hands downs by a huge margin. The JDS also lost the Magadi seat in the district.

Various reasons are being attributed to the loss of the JDS candidates. Voters in the district, a Vokkaliga belt, said they wanted to give a chance to D K Shivakumar, a strong leader from the community, as his chances of becoming the chief minister are bright.

Secondly, the five guarantees announced by the Congress party in its manifesto also played a major role.

Another reason is the consolidation of Dalit, Kuruba and minority votes which went to the Congress. Strong representation of leaders from these communities in the Congress, like AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Siddaramaiah, went in favour of the party.

As for Nikhil's defeat in Ramanagara, voters are putting the blame on the doorstep of his mother Anitha Kumaraswamy, who, they say, made him a "scapegoat" by "sacrificing" her seat for him to make him test the political waters. Voters say she has done nothing for the constituency and also accuse her of being inaccessible to the voters. Voters have vented their anger against her by not voting for her son Nikhil.

Observers say the party has managed to retain Channapattana because of the tall stature of HDK in the Vokkaliga community.

Congress supporters celebrate in front of the KPCC office in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

JDS attributes dismal performance to ire against BJP state government

CHETAN MG @Bengaluru

THE dismal performance of the JDS has come as a big jolt for its leaders, who were expecting to bag at least 30 seats, and position senior leader HD Kumaraswamy as the CM candidate in the event of a fractured mandate.

Listing out the reasons for the debacle, several JDS leaders said that the party was a sort of victim of collateral damage as people had resolved to throw away the BJP government and hence solidly voted for Congress. "There was so much anger against the BJP government that people wanted it to go. This anger worked in favour of Congress for which there was consolidated voting. Unfortunately, the anger on BJP had its effect on JDS," a leader said. "People also badly wanted a stable government. As many think JDS can't form a government on its own also went against the party," a leader said.

It is analysed that Congress received massive support from the Lingayat community while the backward and minority communities also favoured them in a big way, which led to the loss of votes for the JDS in some pockets. Added to the damage was a major split of Vokkaliga votes in Old Mysuru and it cost too dear to the JDS. Also, too much dependence on the Old Mysuru dented the party's numbers, as the party suffered heavy losses in four key districts - Mandya, Hassan, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru - which were considered JDS strongholds.

The leaders also feel that the party could have convinced the people about the benefits of the 'Pancharatna' schemes in a more effective way. "While pancharatna rallies were heavily funded, the party could not arrange funds for the campaign in the last few days. This also cost us some seats as many candidates did not even have funds to meet the election expenses," another leader pointed out.

AAP fails to open account

Bengaluru: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has successfully managed to expand its base from Delhi to Punjab, failed to replicate it in Karnataka. Caught in the crossfire between the Congress and the BJP, AAP and other smaller parties failed to make an impact. ENS

BJP committed too many errors for it to win polls

Confusion over leadership and delay in announcement of candidates cost saffron party

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

AFTER the BJP's worst defeat in the Assembly polls, party leaders will now introspect on the reasons for the humiliation. Though the vote share of 36% has remained the same as the 2018 elections, the number of seats has reduced to 65.

The reasons for the party's failure included state leaders' excessive dependence on the central leadership, delay in announcing candidates and failure to counter Congress' campaign against the state government on various issues, including corruption. The party, however, managed to do well in the state capital. When Congress and JDS had announced their candidates and started campaigning, BJP was still holding consultations at various levels and finally dropped many sitting MLAs to accommodate new faces. The experiment that had worked well in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and other states failed to yield the desired result here. Party sources said it was a wrong move to change candidates at the last minute as it allowed very little time for new candidates to work in their constituencies.

The party's Lingayat strongman BS Yediyurappa not being at the helm of affairs may have also impacted its prospects as Congress portrayed BJP as anti-Lingayat. Many Lingayat leaders, including Laxman Savadi, former CM Jagadish Shettar and others, joined Congress just days before the polls. BJP though tried to woo Lingayats by increasing the reservation, that did not work in its favour.

The anti-incumbency factor too added to the party's failure. In the last few months, the party was caught in a number of controversies, including the ban on hijab and halal meat. Many issues that Congress raised, including the rise in prices of essential commodities, resonated with the voters. The source said the party suffered from a lack of leadership as it could not find an ideal replacement for Yediyurappa.

Even roadshows and rallies addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and others did not help. Now the party will introspect and hope to take corrective measures. Bommai tweeted. "We accept the verdict of people of Karnataka with due respect, we will take this verdict in our stride. We will Analyse and correct our fault lines and rebuild the party."

CM Basavaraj Bommai submits his resignation letter to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Rajbhavan on Saturday | EXPRESS

BJP fails to crack social engineering matrix, Siddu's clout in Varuna

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

VARUNA, that drew national attention for the high-voltage campaign between former chief minister Siddaramaiah and former housing minister V Somanna, turned out to be a Congress fortress. The BJP's strategy to foil Siddaramaiah's ambitions of becoming CM came a-cropper as the Ahinda leader broke all caste equations.

Though the BJP sprang a surprise by fielding Lingayat leader Somanna, who was initially reluctant to contest but late stepped up the campaign, it could not make inroads into the solid Ahinda votebank. The BJP played up the SC/ST reservation card, hoping to garner more than 75,000 votes from this section of society, but the voters closed ranks behind Siddaramaiah, who also enjoys the support of Lingayats and Vokkaligas. The 'five guarantee' scheme also worked in the Congress favour.

The saffron party was confident that the SC left community will rally behind it, after it alleged that Siddaramaiah had foiled the chances of veteran leaders Mallikarjuna Kharge, K H Muniyappa and G Parameshwara becoming chief minister. It also accused the Ahinda leader of hurting the Lingayats, but it did not cut ice with the community. Instead, it was the apprehension that the BJP would review the Constitution and withdraw their social sector benefits, that made them turn to the Congress.

Siddaramaiah also used his close associate C Mahadevappa and Dalit organisations to campaign for him and consolidate Dalit votes, that shrunk the JDS and BSP's votes to less than four digits. Somanna's loss in both Varuna and Chamarajanagar has sent a strong message that backward communities, SC/STs and Muslims stood like a rock behind the Congress. Siddaramaiah also got Lingayat and Vokkaliga votes, pushing his winning margin to 40,941 votes in his political backyard. His emotional connect with the people, and his announcement that it was his last election was another hurdle for the BJP.

Party	Candidate	Votes
INC	**Siddaramaiah**	**98,035**
BJP	V Somanna	57,094
JDS	Bharathi Shankar	927
BSP	Krishnamurthy	716

WINNERS AND LOSERS

In big upset, Shettar bites the dust, loses by huge margin in Lingayat heartland

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @Hubballi

IN one of the biggest upsets in the state assembly polls 2023, high-profile Congress candidate Jagadish Shettar lost from Hubballi-Dharwad Central constituency by a margin of over 34,053 votes to first-time Mahesh Tenginkai of the BJP.

It was more of a battle of prestige for Shettar, who after being denied ticket by the BJP, crossed over to the Congress, days before the polling day.

Shettar was aiming for a seventh consecutive win from the constituency, but the voters stood solidly behind the BJP, ensuring the highest ever margin recorded in the history of the constituency.

Shettar's defeat in his own backyard is a huge setback for him as he had been winning the seat since 1994. His idea of changing the party definitely did not go done well with the voters.

The constituency has largely been anti-Congress, except for a few initial elections. Of the total 15 hustings, five were won by the Congress and the remaining 10 have been shared by Janata Party (three) and BJP (seven).

The constituency became a bastion of the saffron party after it took up the Idgah Maidan movement in the early 1990s and won for the first time in 1994.

Shettar seems to have not realised it and put his personal prestige at stake to fight against the party he built.

In the final tally, Tenginkai received 90,408 votes against Shettar's 60,355.

Also, it is the highest ever votes cast for candidates of both parties in the constituency.

While the BJP got over 25,000 more votes as compared to the 2018 election, the Congress got just over 5,000 voters. High-octane and organised campaigning by BJP workers and equally inactive Congress workers are being being attributed as the reasons for Shettar's defeat. However, Shettar blamed it on the money power of the BJP.

On the contrary, Tenginkai said that voters of the constituency have once again proved that they are always with BJP. He attributed his victory to the teamwork of the party leaders and the hardwork of party workers.

He also said his win is due to the blessings of his earlier Guru (Shettar).

I accept my loss in the assembly elections. I wholeheartedly thank @BJP4Chikmagalur Karyakartas and the people of C'magaluru for their support to me all these years

C T Ravi

The BJP took the election as a challenge and used every tactic, including intimidating my followers with I-T and ED raids. They also created fear among the voters

Jagadish Shettar

For the last three to four years, as a minister, especially after Covid times, I could not spend time with my family. I will do that now. This time, you have elected Pradeep

Dr K Sudhakar

I will respect the decision of voters. People have voted for a change and A S Ponnanna has won for the first time. I wish him the best and I hope that he works for the overall development of Kodagu

K G Bopaiah

In the 2019 bypolls, I had got 67,877 votes and now, voters this time gave 116178 votes and supported me. I am thankful to all party workers

Kusuma H

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

YOUR CHOICE

KARNATAKA ELECTIONS 2023

06 BENGALURU SUNDAY 14.05.2023 newindianexpress.com

Even as counting was under way, Congress workers in various parts of the country erupted into song and dance and smeared green colour on each other. From Bengal to Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat, social media was flooded with pictures of ecstatic workers on the streets

BATTLEGROUND BENGALURU

YELAHANKA
SR VISHWANATH (BJP)
KESHAVA RAJANNA B (INC)
150 MARGIN : **63,268**

KR PURAM
B. A.BASAVARAJA (BJP)
D K MOHAN (INC)
151 MARGIN : **24,301**

BYATARAYANAPURA
KRISHNA BYREGOWDA (INC)
THAMMESH GOWDA HC (BJP)
152 MARGIN : **38,204**

YESHWANTHPUR
S T SOMASHEKAR (BJP)
TNJAVARAYIGOWDA (JDS)
153 MARGIN : **15,118**

RR NAGAR
MUNIRATHNA (BJP)
KUSUMA H (INC)
154 MARGIN : **11,842**

DASARAHALLI
S MUNIRAJU (BJP)
R MANJUNATHA (JDS)
155 MARGIN : **9,194**

MAHALAKSHMI LAYOUT
K. GOPALAIAH (BJP)
KESHAVAMURTHY S (INC)
156 MARGIN : **51,165**

MALLESWARAM
Dr ASHWATH NARAYAN (BJP)
ANOOP IYENGAR (INC)
157 MARGIN : **41,302**

HEBBAL
Suresha B S (INC)
Jagdeesha Katta K S (BJP)
158 MARGIN : **30,754**

PULIKESHINAGAR
A C SRINIVASA (INC)
AKANDA SRINIVASA (BSP)
159 MARGIN : **62,210**

SARVAGNANAGAR
KJ GEORGE (INC)
PADMANABHA REDDY (BJP)
160 MARGIN : **55,768**

CV RAMAN NAGAR
S RAGHU (BJP)
ANAND KUMAR S (INC)
161 MARGIN : **16,395**

SHIVAJINAGAR
RIZWAN ARSHAD (INC)
CHANDRA N (BJP)
162 MARGIN : **23,194**

SHANTINAGAR
NA HARIS (INC)
K SHIVAKUMAR (BJP)
163 MARGIN : **7,125**

GANDHINAGAR
DINESH GUNDU RAO (INC)
SAPTHAGIRI GOWDA AR (BJP)
164 MARGIN : **105**

RAJAJINAGAR
S SURESH KUMAR (BJP)
PUTTANNA (INC)
165 MARGIN : **8,060**

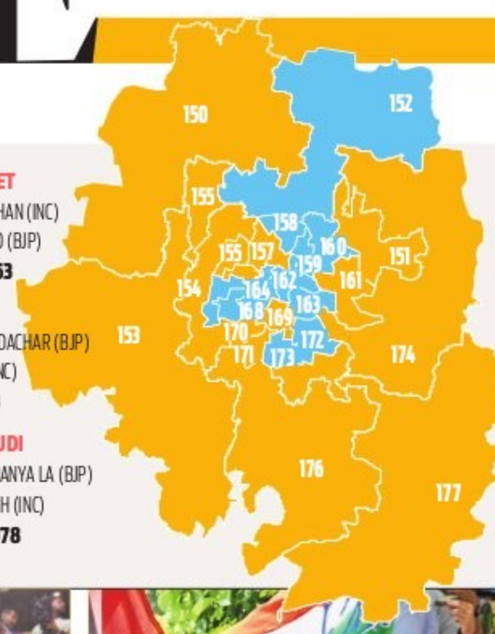
GOVINDARAJNAGAR
PRIYAKRISHNA (INC)
K UMESH SHETTY (BJP)
166 MARGIN : **12,516**

VIJAYANAGAR
M KRISHNAPPA (INC)
H RAVINDRA (BJP)
167 MARGIN : **7,324**

CHAMARAJPET
BZ ZAMEER KHAN (INC)
BHASKAR RAO (BJP)
168 MARGIN : **53,953**

CHICKPET
UDAY B GARUDACHAR (BJP)
RV DEVRAJ (INC)
169 MARGIN : **12,113**

BASAVANAGUDI
RAVI SUBRAMANYA LA (BJP)
UB VENKATESH (INC)
170 MARGIN : **54,978**



PADMANABHANAGAR
R ASHOKA (BJP)
V RAGHUNATHA NAIDU (INC)
171 MARGIN : **55,175**

BTM LAYOUT
RAMALINGA REDDY (INC)
KR SRIDHARA (BJP)
172 MARGIN : **9,222**

MAHADEVAPURA
MANJULA S (BJP)
H NAGESH (INC)
174 MARGIN : **44,501**

BOMMANAHALLI
SATHISH REDDY M (BJP)
Umapathy Srinivasa (INC)
175 MARGIN : **24,215**

BENGALURU SOUTH
M Krishnappa (BJP)
RK Ramesh (INC)
176 MARGIN : **49,699**

ANEKAL
B SHIVANNA (INC)
SRINIVAS C HULLAHALLI (BJP)
176 MARGIN : **31,325**

BJP retains silicon sheen amid Cong tsunami in K'taka

Of the 28 seats in Bengaluru, BJP won 16 and Congress 12; JDS & AAP fail to open accounts

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN the words of Charles Dickens, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times...it was the spring of hope". As Karnataka renounced lotus, and held the hand of the Grand Old Party, BJP's presence was predominantly reduced to Bengaluru, where the turnout was tepid on polling day. Despite a heap of problems like bad roads, crawling traffic, sloppy Metro works, the saffron camp managed to garner some seats amidst a Congress wave.

Of the 28 seats in Bengaluru, BJP won 16 and Congress 12, while JDS and AAP failed to open their accounts. In 2018, Congress won 15, BJP 11, and JDS two. However, the equations changed after the 2019 by-polls which was necessitated by Congress and JDS MLAs joining BJP to help form its government. BJP had won KR Puram, Yeshwanthpur, Mahalakshmi Layout and RR Nagar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshows on May 6 and 7, on which the state unit had banked, gave them the required push, with some of their candidates winning narrowly.

The campaign blitzkrieg by central and state leadership also helped boost the morale of party workers to up their game and overcome the anti-incumbency factor especially in Mahadevapura, RR Nagar, KR Puram and Yelahanka. Bengalureans took into consideration flooding, demolition drives, and other civic issues as they walked into polling booths.

Political experts said that low voter turnout and cosmopolitan population have played key roles in deciding the winners. Experienced leaders like Dr CN Ashwath Narayan (Malleswaram), R Ashoka (Padmanabhanagar), SR Vishwanath (Yelahanka), Ravi Subramanya (Basavanagudi), ST Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur) and Suresh Kumar (Rajajinagar) managed to retain their seats.

Congress stalwarts who defended their seats are : Ramalinga Reddy (BTM Layout), BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan (Chamrajpet), M Krishnappa (Vijayanagar), Dinesh Gundu Rao (Gandhinagar), KJ George (Sarvagna Nagar) and Krishna Byregowda (Bytarayanapura).

Congress candidate Dinesh Gundu Rao celebrates after his victory in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Today's result is a thumping endorsement of all the development that Shivajinagar has seen in the past 3 years. We will continue building Shivajinagar

Rizwan Arshad, Cong

I express my heartfelt thanks to all the activists who worked hard for my historic victory and to all the citizens of Yeshwantpur constituency who supported me

ST Somashekar, BJP

I am determined to make my constituency a model constituency. I am grateful to all workers who worked hard for my victory

Dinesh Gundu Rao, Congress

As BJP candidate of our Malleswaram Constituency, my people won me with a large margin of votes.

Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, BJP

NAATU NAATU: (Clockwise from left) Congress workers celebrate in front of the KPCC office; Congress candidates Rizwan Arshad (Shivajinagar) and BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan (Chamarajpet) in a jubilant mood after being declared winners; A pall of gloom descends on the BJP office in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T, SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Under the same roof, some rejoice, while others lament

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

WITH the election results out, an interesting trend has emerged. Several victors hail from the same families, and either have a father, daughter, son or brother, who contested the polls.

Congress veteran K H Muniyappa's daughter Roopakala Shashidhar was declared the winner in KGF. Meanwhile, her father too scripted a victory from Devanahalli. Similarly, while Congress' M Krishnappa won from Vijayanagar, his son Priya Krishna won from Govindarajanagar. Likewise, Arkalgudu Manju, who contested from Arkalgud, won, and his son Mantar Gowda won in Madikeri, a BJP bastion. JDS' GT Deve Gowda and his son Harish Gowda have emerged victorious, from Chamundeshwari and Hunsur Assembly constituencies, respectively. Meanwhile, Sowmya Reddy, daughter of Congress stalwart Ramalinga Reddy, lost from Jayanagar by a measly margin of 17 votes.

This trend is seen across districts. Also, there have been instances where family members represented different parties. In Belagavi, the Jarkiholi brothers were able to hold on to their strongholds. While Ramesh, who had jumped to the BJP from the Congress in 2019, won from Gokak, his brother Balachandra won from Arabavi. Satish Jarkiholi, who contested on a Congress ticket, won from Yamakanamaradi.

Similarly, mining baron G Janardhana Reddy, won from the Gangavathi seat, representing his newly-founded outfit, 'Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha'. His brothers Somashekhar Reddy and Karunakar Reddy, from the BJP, lost in Ballari City and Harapanahalli, respectively.

Meanwhile, the election also saw instances where someone from a family won, while others had to concede defeat. A notable example is the electoral loss of JDS' Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, who lost in Ramanagara. However, both Kumaraswamy and his brother HD Revanna won from their seats in Channapatna and Holenarsipura, respectively.

SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

'Will work as good opposition'

UNION Minister of State for Agriculture and senior BJP leader **Shobha Karandlaje** interacts with *The New Sunday Express* after her party's defeat

BJP has lost the elections. What is your reaction?
People of Karnataka have blessed Congress. My best wishes to them.

What is BJP's next course of action?
We will work as a good opposition party.

Your message for Congress
Congress has committed many mistakes in the past, including hurting the sentiments of the Hindus. They should stop doing that and work for the overall development of the state.

Will the results have an impact on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections?
We want to win 26 of 28 seats from Karnataka.

NEWBIES HIT NADIR, Mrs LIMBAVALI SAILS THROUGH

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THEY injected freshness in the Assembly elections with a promise of a better tomorrow, but eventually, fell flat.

Newbies S Anand Kumar of Congress from CV Raman Nagar, BJP's R Chandra from Shivajinagar, Congress' DK Mohan from KR Puram, Independent candidate KGF Babu, JDS' Imran Pasha from Chickpet, Congress' Umapati Srinivas Gowda from Bommanahalli were defeated. Anand lost by a margin of 16,000 votes and Gowda by 23,000.

BJP's Manjula Limbavali, wife of three-time MLA Aravind Limbavali, won by a margin of over 44,501 votes. Although her experience is lean, her husband's intricate knowledge of the area will be of massive help to her.

Shivajinagar Congress candidate Rizwan Arshad defeated R Chandra by 21,000 votes, while DK Mohan from KR Puram lost by 24,000 against Byrathi Basavaraj. Similarly, KGF Babu and Imran Pasha lost against BJP's Uday Garudachar in Chickpet, who garnered 45,000-plus votes. KGF Babu got only 20,000 votes and Imran Pasha around 1,800.

Aam Aadmi Party's Brijesh Kalappa's deposit was forfeited after getting only 600 votes.

Similarly, in Shanthinagar, three-time Congress MLA NA Harris sailed through winning by 7,000 votes.

MLC UB Venkatesh tasted a huge defeat by 54,900 votes against Ravi Subramanyam in Basavanagudi. Congress' Puttanna lost by a margin of 8,000-plus votes against former minister S Suresh Kumar.

Manjula Limbavali

After drubbing at the hands of KPCC presdient DK Shivakumar in Kanakapura, R Ashoka managed to win Padmanabha Nagar against newbie Raghunath Naidu by 55,000 votes.

BJP high-profile candidate Bhaskar Rao, former police commissioner of Bengaluru who had jumped from Aam Aadmi Party, faced a humiliating defeat, losing by 53,000 votes from Chamarajpet against Congress candidate BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Celebrations break out in Cong, BJP falls silent

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

AROUND 10am Saturday, as the Congress started gaining an early lead in over 100 assembly constituencies, the party office on Queen's Road in Bengaluru erupted into celebration, with workers cheering and distributing sweets, confident that their party would get a clear majority.

As the day progressed, the mood became clear in each camp. The BJP office in Malleswaram, which was brimming with activity for weeks, began falling silent as the party's debacle became apparent. The impact of the candidates' shocking performance began to sink in by noon.

The JDS party office in Seshadripuram wore a completely deserted look, with no party workers or leaders to be seen on the premises.

Through the day, rejoicing continued at the Congress office as the results poured in. Congress workers jumped and danced as it became clear that the party would comfortably cross the magic number of 113. Workers shouted slogans against the BJP, like "Forty per cent commission is yours, government is ours!"

Ecstatic Congress supporters in front of the KPCC office in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Right from 7am, agents started entering counting stations across the city. Congress workers waiting outside the stations kicked off celebrations as soon as the trends became clear, while BJP workers were holding discussions in groups, and making calls to figure out what could have gone wrong.

JDS workers, who initially showed some enthusiasm as their Yeshwanthpur candidate Javarayi Gowda was leading in the initial rounds, lost all hope after he fell behind BJP candidate S T Somashekar. Party workers lifted up winning Congress candidates like Rizwan Arshad and Zameer Ahmed Khan outside the counting station at BMS College in Basavanagudi, to express their joy.

The fight between BJP candidate Muniratna and Congress candidate Kusuma for Rajarajeshwari Nagar seat was closely watched after it kindled interest among the people. By afternoon, Kusuma was leading but by evening, Muniratna emerged victorious.

The counting centres that aroused the most curiosity was Jayanagar, besides Gandhinagar constituencies, as the victory margins were very close.

Of 3 women, 1 makes it to winning post

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

THREE women candidates were in a fierce contest, but eventually, BJP candidate Manjula S defeated Congress candidate H Suresh on Saturday, becoming the only woman candidate in the city to win. The two others were Congress Jayanagar candidate Sowmya Reddy and Congress RR Nagar candidate Kusuma H.

It was a cliffhanger in Jayanagar when after several rounds of counting no clear winner emerged till late night. KPCC president DK Shivakumar, his brother and Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh, and Sowmya's father Ramalinga Reddy were camping outside the SSMRV College counting centre in Tilaknagar. As the contest became tighter, BJP candidate CK Ramamurthy was declared the winner, but Congress challenged it. Another round of recounting was done after which Sowmya lost by just 17 votes. Chaos prevailed at the counting centre as both Congress and BJP workers and top leaders of both parties tried to enter the counting centre.

BJP's KC Ramamurthy (right) defeated Congress' Sowmya Reddy | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

"The Congress candidate of Jayanagar Assembly Constituency Mrs. Sowmya Reddy has won but protested against the action of the election officials who tried to distort the result on the pretext of recount," Shivakumar tweeted, with a picture of him seated with Ramalinga Reddy.

Meanwhile, Kusuma H, one of the youngest candidates, made another attempt to defeat incumbent MLA Munirathna, after a crushing blow in the 2020 by-polls by a margin of over 58,000 votes. However, despite maintaining over 6,000 votes in the lead well into the afternoon, Munirathna won by a margin of 11,842 votes. Kusuma H, wife of late IAS officer DK Ravi, made her debut in politics in the 2020 byelections. She had joined Congress along with her father, JDS leader Hanumatharayappa.

A relative of three persons who died in the Tanur boat tragedy has approached the Kerala High Court seeking to implead in the suo motu case registered in connection with the accident that claimed 22 lives

BJP LOST AS IT FAILED TO KEEP LINGAYATS HAPPY

Saffron party's ploy of increasing reservation did not yield results

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

As BJP sits down to introspect on its shock defeat in the Karnataka Assembly polls, one thing was clear, its Lingayat vote bank did not support the party like it did in the 2008 and 2018 polls.

Lingayats form around 17-20 per cent of the state's population and have tremendous influence on poll outcomes. In 2008, the community strongman and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa had gone before the community with tears, saying he had been cheated by the JDS by not transferring the power to him as promised. The community backed him fully then, and in 2018, there was zealous voting for BJP because of the allegation of breaking Veerashaivas and Lingayats against Congress.

This time, of the 69 tickets given to Veerashaiva-Lingayats by BJP, only 18 won. One of the candidates and former minister V Somanna lost in both the constituencies he contested from.

Renuka Prasanna, who is the secretary of one of the most powerful community organisations -- Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha, said, "The party promised the community reservation, but it did not work out. They went after the honey of reservation but it failed. What also cost them were local issues, in addition to allegations of harming the Veerashaiva Lingayat leadership."

Political analyst BS Murthy said, "The Lingayats are about 20 per cent and BJP did not know how to keep the constituents satisfied that cost them dearly. In Congress, 34 of the 46 Veerashaiva-Lingayats won, which is a strike rate of 74 per cent that is very good."

The total number of Veerashaiva-Lingayat MLAs in 1967 was 90, in 1972, it was 77 and in 1983 when Ramakrishna Hegde became chief minister, it was 77. Later, other communities played catchup. In 1989, when Congress won its highest tally of 179 seats, there were 41 Veerashaiva Lingayat legislators.

> The party promised the community reservation, but it did not work out. They went after the honey of reservation but it failed. What also cost them were local issues, in addition to allegations of harming the Veerashaiva Lingayat leadership
>
> Renuka Prasanna, Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha

BJP's hold

From 2004, the BJP gained a foothold in the district which was otherwise electing Congress, JDS and independent candidates. The Datta Peeta Liberation Movement, Dattamala Abhiyan, Shobha Yatra and Dharma Sansad helped the BJP to increase its votes

After two decades, Cong regains old glory in Ch'magaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chikkamagaluru

AFTER nearly two decades, the Congress made a clean sweep in the assembly elections in Chikkamagaluru, regaining its old glory. The BJP had four MLAs, C T Ravi from Chikkamagaluru, M P Kumaraswamy from Mudigere , Belli Prakash from Kadur and D S Suresh from Tarikere, after the 2018 assembly polls.

From 1989 to 1999, C R Sageer Ahmed won successively from Chikkamagaluru and had been minister twice. In 1999, C R Sagir Ahmad, D B Chandre Gowda and Motamma were cabinet ministers in the S M Krishna Ministry.

After former PM Indira Gandhi contested from Chikkamagaluru in 1979 and won, the district became a strong bastion of the Congress and it gave a political rebirth to Indira Gandhi. From 2004, the BJP gained a foothold in the district which was otherwise electing Congress, JDS and independent candidates. The Datta Peeta Liberation Movement, Dattamala Abhiyan, Shobha Yatra and Dharma Sansad helped the BJP to increase its votes in Chikkamagaluru, Mudigere and Karkala.

Sitting BJP MLAs C T Ravi, Belli Prakash and D S Suresh lost to H D Thammaiah, K S Anand and former MLA G H Srinivas, respectively. BJP MLA M P Kumaraswamy was denied ticket and he quit the party and joined the JDS. He contested on the JDS ticket but finished third.

BJP candidate Deepak Doddaiah lost to Congress candidate Nayana, daughter of former MLA Motamma. In Tarikere, BJP candidate D S Suresh was defeated by former MLA G H Srinivas, though Congress rebel H M Gopkrishna divided party votes. Last time loser and Congress candidate K S Anand wrested the seat from Belli Prakash. Sringeri witnessed a neck-and-neck fight ultimately victory going in favour of Congress candidate T D Raje Gowda. Raje Gowda defeated D N Jeevaraj by 153 votes.

Congress supporters celebrate after the massive win of the party in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BY RAPPA

RAMESH LEFT RED-FACED AS 5 FOLLOWERS FAIL TO WIN

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

FOR all his tall claims and bravado, Ramesh Jarkiholi, who had prevailed upon the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) top brass to give tickets to his staunch followers in five assembly constituencies in Belagavi district, has been left red-faced as they all lost.

Jarkiholi had managed to get tickets to his followers Mahesh Kumatalli in Athani, Nagesh Manolkar in Belagavi Rural, Jagadish Metgud in Bailhongal, Basavaraj Hundri in Yamakanmardi, and Chikka Revanna in Ramdurg. But all of them bit the dust.

Ramesh's move had irked the senior BJP leader Laxman Savadi so much that he quit the saffron party and joined the Congress. Though

BJP workers disappointed at the importance given to Ramesh, they toed the party line.

Ramesh, who had claimed that he would ensure victory of the saffron party in 16 out of 18 seats in the district, failed completely in his mission.

A six-time MLA, Ramesh's own victory in Gokak was not a cakewalk this time. In the the first few rounds, he was trailing behind the Congress candidate Mahantesh Kadadi. However, he then picked pace in the following rounds and finally won by a margin of 25,412 votes. According to political analysts, though Ramesh won in Gokak, his political strategy had gone haywire.

Ramesh was keen on defeating his political rivals Laxman Savadi and Laxmi Hebbar, but both of them won with convincing margins.

Ramesh had played a vital role in bringing BJP to power in 2020 through 'Operation Lotus' when 17 MLAs belonging to the Grand-Old-Party and JDS had defected to the saffron party.

AICC PRESIDENT MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

'We've won battle, need to win war'

CREDIT for victory
This is truly the victory of the people of Karnataka. With folded hands, we thank them for putting their trust in us. All our Congress Party workers, state leaders and office-bearers on the ground worked extremely hard to ensure this victory. The collective leadership of the Congress, including that of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, made it possible.

Future aim
We have now won the battle and we have to win the war (2024 Lok Sabha elections). If you win the war, then the country will be safe and democracy will be protected.

What is the party's priority
The priority is to implement our five guarantees and work for the welfare of the people

Karnataka election results ensured
A BJP-free South India

Kulkarni bags record win despite ban on Dharwad entry

Shivaleela, wife of Vinay Kulkarni, at the counting station in Dharwad on Saturday

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @ Dharwad

IN a first in the state assembly polls, Congress candidate Vinay Kulkarni won the Dharwad Rural seat by a huge margin despite being banned from entering the district due to his alleged involvement in a murder case of a BJP worker.

Kulkarni defeated sitting BJP MLA Amrut Desai by a margin of 18,114 votes. While Kulkarni bagged 88,660 votes, Desai got 70,546 votes.

Kulkarni was granted bail by the Supreme Court in 2021, but barred from entering the district in connection with the murder of Yogish Gowda which took place in 2016. Kulkarni has been accused of destroying the evidence. Shivaleela, wife of Vinay Kulkarni, expressed her joy and said the people of the constituency have supported their leader during difficult times. "We have faced many hurdles after my husband got expelled from the district. He was not even allowed to file his nomination or to campaign. My husband's win is not his win alone. It is the victory of the people of the constituency who voted for him".

A relative of Kulkarni said BJP leaders not only ran a hate campaign against him but carried out raids on the houses of party workers to intimidate them.

CONGRESS CONQUERS MANDYA FORTRESS

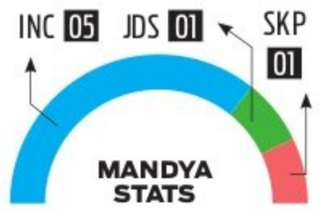
KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

THE Congress has managed to get hold over the Mandya fortress by winning five out of seven assembly constituencies. In 2018, the JDS hadw managed to win all the seven.

Narendra Swamy, Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, Ravikumar Ganiga, Chaluvarayaswamy and Udaya K M have emerged as winners from the grand-old party while H T Manju was the sole winner from the JDS.

Meanwhile, the BJP tried very hard to make a mark in the district by bringing in Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice. K C Narayan Gowda who won from KR Pet on saffron party ticket ended up third.

In Melukote constituency which saw a tough fight between Darshan Puttannaiah of Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha C S Puttaraju, the former managed to win by around 11,000 votes. In Malavalli, P M Narendraswamy secured 1,05,413 votes while K Annadani of JDS bagged 59,652 votes. In Maddur, Uday K M of Congress secured 87,019 votes as against his nearest rival D C Thammanna's 24,113 while in Srirangapatna, Bandisiddegowda polled 72,819 votes and won against JDS candidate.



MUNIYAPPA WINS FROM DEVANAHALLI, DAUGHTER FROM KGF

Kolar: It was a big victory for former Union minister K H Muniyappa as he and his daughter and sitting MLA Roopakala Sashidhar won from Devanahalli and KGF respectively. After winning Lok Sabha elections for seven consecutive times, Muniyappa lost for the first time in 2019. Later, he started meeting people in Devanahalli. When he evinced interest to contest from Devanahalli, the party high command gave him the green signal and his name was announced in the first list. Roopakala's name was also announced in the same list. Muniyappa won by a narrow margin of 4,780 votes while his daughter created history by winning by a margin of 51,262. Speaking to media persons, Muniyappa thanked the party for giving him and his daughter the party's tickets. ENS

CONGRESS SHATTERS BJP'S KODAGU FORT

Madikeri: Congress shattered the two-decade hold of BJP in Kodagu district. Once impregnable fort of the BJP, Kodagu has now opened its arms for the fresh faces of Congress who won with over 4,000 margin Madikeri and Virajpet constituencies. Congress candidate Dr Mantar Gowda was leading since the first round of counting in Madikeri. While Mantar garnered 84,879 votes, BJP's Appachu Ranjan bagged 80,477 votes. JDS candidate Napanda Muthappa polled 6,233 votes while NOTA stood at the fourth place. In Virajpet, incumbent K G Bopaiah was leading with over 2,000 margin against Congress candidate A S Ponnanna till the eighth round of counting. However, the tables turned later and Ponnanna won with a lead of 4,291. ENS

DOMINO EFFECT

'K'taka results can push Stalin's graph up'

S KUMARESAN @Chennai

WITH the Congress sweeping the elections in Karnataka, DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin stands vindicated in rejecting a third front without the grand old party for fighting the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The outcome of Karnataka elections is also expected to rock the boat as regards the AIADMK-BJP alliance for the parliamentary polls, indirectly boosting the image and voice of AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, political experts said.

It may be noted that Palaniswami had managed to win 75 seats for the alliance in the 2021 Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu when the party lost, which is higher than what the BJP has got in Karnataka, despite having Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the face of the elections.

Senior journalist and political critic Savithiri Kannan said that apart from giving a morale boost to Congress cadre and leaders in Tamil Nadu, the results can help in changing the attitude of the DMK towards the Congress. "So far, Congress leaders and cadre faced humiliation in various issues due to the big-brother attitude of the DMK. From now on, that could change. As far as the AIADMK-led alliance is concerned, Palaniswami would take the upper hand in seat-sharing and other issues while dealing with the BJP," Kannan said.

Another senior political journalist Raghavendra Ara told TNIE, "This could indirectly push Stalin's graph upwards in the national political landscape as he has been constantly advocating a Congress-inclusive front to defeat the BJP in 2024."

K'taka win gives Kerala Cong boost

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN @T'Puram

THE Congress election victory in the neighbouring state of Karnataka has come as a much-needed shot in the arm for the Kerala unit of the party. It is also a feather in the cap of senior leaders Ramesh Chennithala and Shashi Tharoor, who were featured in the party campaign. At a time when both of them are eyeing a CWC berth, the outcome could prove crucial.

Indira Bhavan, the state party headquarters, was witness to major celebrations on Saturday as firecrackers were burst to celebrate the Karnataka mandate. Local party workers also took out a two-wheeler rally.

For PCC chief K Sudhakaran and team, the verdict comes as a confidence booster. The happiest of the lot is Chennithala, who had camped in Karnataka for two weeks. His campaigning focused on the coastal areas, Mangaluru and Bengaluru -- which have sizable Malayali populations.

Chennithala said the victory in Karnataka has proved the Congress can take on the BJP and Rahul Gandhi can take on against Prime Minister Narendra Modi effortlessly. "This victory is a prelude to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, which will see a Congress-led government coming to power at the Centre. This is a mandate for Rahul Gandhi to take on Modi," Chennithala told TNIE.

Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan, national secretary in-charge of Karnataka P C Vishnunadh and Mathew Kuzhalnadan were the other leaders from the state who campaigned in Karnataka. Satheesan said the Karnataka verdict would reflect in the next election in Kerala, in which "the LDF government will also bite the dust."

At a time when party workers are a worried lot over the inordinate delay in revamping the organisation, which in turn is setting back preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Karnataka victory has reassured them of Rahul Gandhi's increased prominence on the national scene. For inspiration, Sudhakaran can definitely look to his Karnataka counterpart D K Shivakumar, whose relentless two-year campaign has paid dividends.

Sudhakaran maintained that it's a victory for Kerala, too. "The Malayali diaspora in Karnataka rallied behind the Congress. The campaigning by Congress leaders from Kerala was a meticulous affair. Kerala is hence obviously elated," he said.

Can Telangana Cong unite to replicate Karnataka election?

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY @Hyderabad

AS expected, the resounding victory of the Congress in Karnataka has boosted the morale of the TPCC as it prepares for the Assembly elections in Telangana later this year. The impressive victory in Karnataka, achieved through united efforts and the absence of internal factions, has instilled optimism among Congress leaders in Telangana.

Prominent Karnataka Congress leaders, including DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, worked cohesively and tirelessly to secure victory. The triumph has sparked speculation about the potential impact on Telangana politics and how leaders will emulate the successful strategies employed in Karnataka. The crucial question now is whether the Telangana Congress can pull off the same victory or will allow itself to be riven by internal conflicts.

The onus is on Telangana Congress leaders to prove themselves in the upcoming elections. In Karnataka, important leaders of the AICC, including Mallikarjuna Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi, interacted with local leaders to discuss strategies and bridge the gap between them. The success achieved in Karnataka without ego clashes or factional politics raises hopes about the possibility of a similar scenario in the Telangana Congress.

Political strategist Sunil Kanugolu, who played a pivotal role in Karnataka, is also actively involved in shaping the course of the Telangana Congress and mobilising the party to work towards gaining power. Sources suggest that Kanugolu faced challenges earlier in the state. It is now crucial for the strategist to interact with senior leaders.

Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test, consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals

Milan Kundera

ELECTORAL MATH MEETS POLITICS OF ECONOMICS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR

Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India

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THE cult of electoral sops has reached a new milestone. It is no longer enough to promise benefits, they have to be backed by signed guarantee cards.

The Indian National Congress promised Rs 2,000 per month to women heads of families, Rs 3,000 monthly allowance for unemployed graduates, 200 units of free electricity, and 10 kg of rice to low-income families. The promises have been underwritten on a guarantee card, co-signed by Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar. Apparently, nearly 2 crore persons – that is, roughly one of three residents in Karnataka -- possesses an IOU from Congress.

The BJP on its part promised five kg of millet, five kg of rice, half a litre of Nandini milk, three cooking gas cylinders to every BPL household and a matching grant of up to Rs 10,000 in savings deposits. The Janata Dal (S) promised Rs 10,000 per acre capped 10 acres for farmers to procure inputs, Rs 2,000 for farm labourers, Rs 2 lakh to women who marry agriculturists and five cooking gas cylinders.

That the sops race should star in election manifestoes in Karnataka is a testimony to the expansion of helicopter politics. Karnataka is the hyper-hub of India's tech prowess – indeed it was showcased to visiting leaders from G20 nations. It has over 5,500 ITES companies, nearly 700 MNCs, accounts for a fourth of the state output and contributes over $50 billion in export earnings. The Economic Survey for 2022-23 underlines that its GSDP (gross state domestic product) grew by 14.2 per cent to Rs 22.41 lakh crore and boasts that its per capita income at "Rs 3,01,673 is higher by 77% to All India Per Capita Income of Rs 1,70,620 during 2022-23."

Karnataka is scarcely the only state where electoral sops have occupied headline attention. In Gujarat, another industrialised state, the Aam Aadmi Party promised 300 units of free electricity, unemployment allowance of Rs 3,000 and Rs 1,000 for women besides stipends for lawyers. The Congress promised loan waiver of Rs 3 lakh and LPG cylinder at Rs 500.

The race for Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is as yet some months away but the sops race has begun and is manifest in budgets and statements. The Ashok Gehlot regime in Rajasthan unveiled an election budget with sops ranging from free power to subsidised LPG cylinders, ramped up health cover et al. In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Chauhan has announced Rs 1,000 per month to women who do not pay income tax and the Congress in response has announced an allowance of Rs 1,500 per woman per month.

The price being paid is visible both in denial of services, poorly funded health and education, in unfilled vacancies – it is estimated that there are over a million government posts vacant across state governments. It is also manifest in project funding delays and costs paid by the taxpayer – non-development expenditure of state governments has shot up from Rs 10.63 lakh crore in 2020-21 to over Rs 14.18 lakh crore. Ostensibly, real development is harder and election sops deliver better returns in the hustings.

Wooing voters is not limited to giveaways. Political parties are reversing reforms which threaten to distort the fiscal balance of states. The pension burden of states is estimated at Rs 4 trillion and is growing. In Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand Chhattisgarh, Punjab, in state after state parties are reverting from the fiscally prudent market-related new pension scheme introduced in 2003-04 to the old pension scheme which increases the burden on states. The pitfalls of such moves have been illustrated in many studies.

Indeed the Reserve Bank of India in its report 'State Finances – A Risk Analysis' observes that the "sustainability of public debt at national and sub-national levels" is yet again a dominant fiscal risk. It cautions "Given this parlous situation, the tendency towards handing out cash subsidies, in normal times, provision of free utility services, and revival of the old pension scheme by some states and extension of implicit and explicit guarantees by various state governments in India act like swords of Damocles."

The issue has been examined by the Supreme Court following a PIL. In October 2022 the Election Commission of India proposed changes in proposed changes to its manifesto guidelines and sought the response of parties requiring disclosures on implementation and impact of poll promises. Political rhetoric though has bypassed sage advice.

Electoral sops are effectively the preferred political flyover deployed by parties – and no party can claim innocence – to overcome inadequacies in governance and target particular groups of voters to seize power. This, in the fifth largest, fastest growing economy which runs the world's largest food security programme covering 800 million people and one of the largest insurance schemes covering 500 million people. The bitter reality is that in recent years, the cult of taxpayer-paid promises has led to the exponential expansion of an electoral constituency dubbed as "beneficiaries".

The challenge under the big tent is to devise policies to accommodate the aspirations of the working-age populace at the bottom of the income pyramid. The noise around every election campaign is about the legendary potency of caste arithmetic. In the coming days and weeks, pollsters and parties will torture election data to derive convenient convictions. The inconvenient truth is that the magic of socially engineered electoral math has come face to face with the politics of economics.

MEDIA MONEY TALKS, OPPORTUNISM WALKS

POWER & POLITICS

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Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

Kejriwal's Face Wins in Face Off

THE political underdog's bark is usually worse than the bite. Arvind Kejriwal, adept at playing the role, has, this time, got a big bite off the power pie after the Supreme Court handed him control over Delhi government officials. The 104 page judgement is a well-argued document granting Kejriwal a prime position after eight years of strife with the Centre. He had been using advertising largesse to laminate himself and his government using media space. In his testy tussle with Lt Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena, the habitual martyr's PR exercise had been crippled. Now the SC has categorically classified that the Government of National Capital Delhi (GNCD) will have total control over all services barring law and order and land issues. Kejriwal had been trudging along as CM, looking over his shoulder each time he wrote a word on a file. He was initially a media creation, and Saxena's block on self-promotion was hurting him. Kejriwal is the alpha and omega of AAP, just like Modi is for the BJP. Before Saxena, hardly a day passed without daily full page newspaper ads sporting life size photos of Kejriwal in Delhi and chosen cities. TV channels were raking in the moolah, showing 2 to 3 minutes of sponsored features showcasing AK's idea of good governance, modern school education and a robust healthcare system. Massive hoardings and bus backs bore his pictures all over Delhi. For every single hoarding of Modi, Kejriwal put up two of himself. Before the last Assembly elections, the BJP couldn't find hoarding space at strategic locations because AAP had booked most of them in advance. Saxena had pressed the brakes on this publicity binge. The Delhi government spent almost Rs 1.5 crore a day in the print and electronic media showing Kejriwal's beaming visage. AAP used crores to advertise in some southern and eastern states where it didn't exist. The ad-binge was an effort to project Kejriwal as the potential alternative to Modi. In March, Saxena held back approval of the Delhi government's annual budget because the Union government felt that spending Rs 550 crore for publicity was excessive in a Rs 78,000 crore budget. Even the Information and Publicity department, which reports to the CM or deputy CM, was ordered to recover Rs 163 crore from AAP. Now, after the Supreme Court order, expect Kejriwal to be back in the media with a vengeance. Since Delhi is a revenue surplus state, his face will be plastered on every wall, at airports, on TV and on thousands of websites nationwide. His political sponsors are elated at the prospect of positioning the AAP supremo's pictures next to Modi's using the combined revenue of over Rs 1,500 crore from Punjab and Delhi. And the money starved media houses will be smiling all the way to the bank.

Bihar weathervane's excess baggage

Personality cults are the steroids of politics. As Arvind Kejriwal looks forward to regaining nationwide visibility through a new well-funded media blitz, power hopper and Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is chasing the mirage of opposition unity by crisscrossing the country with deputy Tejashwi Yadav in tow. Despite a clash of personalities and

ideologies, coupled with the fear of ED and CBI raids, Kumar hopes to get Opposition leaders together to fight the BJP and its powerful general, Narendra Modi. Of course, the subtitles mean Kumar will be the helmsman. He flew from Kolkata to Mumbai via Lucknow and Bhubaneswar. Since Nitish's political career spans over 45 years as Union Minister and six-time chief minister, almost everyone gave him an audience. With his numerous previous flip-flops, he has lost much of the credibility he once enjoyed. But people judge him by the company he keeps. Most Opposition leaders were uncomfortable with Yadav Jr's presence in the confabulations since he doesn't have enough experience in dealing with senior CMs and titans like Sharad Pawar. His own party is ridden with factions, and the entire Yadav clan is under investigation. One Opposition leader is believed to have conveyed to Nitish that Tejashwi acquiring a prominent place in the firmament of concord could collapse coadunation even before it is taken seriously by leaders who can effectively challenge Modified BJP. Yet Nitish hasn't given up and is planning a big Opposition Summit in Patna, which he claims would remind people of the rally hosted by Jayprakash Narayan in 1974 that spelt the beginning of the end for Indira Gandhi then. The difference: none of the leaders on JP's stage was tainted or tamed by her regime.

Let MPs pay for Bipartisan TRPs

Sansad TV is in the news for the wrong reasons. It is being blamed for blacking out the Opposition when speaking against the government or the PM. It can't be blamed for functional infirmities since it operates within a tightly controlled framework. Still, it has adopted innovative adventurism in content creation and generation, along with better visuals and GFX. To counter the combative and agenda-driven talk shows hosted by privately owned TV channels daily, it chose prominent civil servants, netas and thought leaders to host shows on special subjects from history and culture to political matters. To reflect Parliamentary plurality, it selected individuals from non-BJP parties to anchor the shows with a special look and feel. A Congress MP was asked to present the show, "To the Point", in which credible personalities from various fields would talk about their experiences. A Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP was asked to bring "Meri Kahani" onstage to showcase the difficulties women MPs face in their political and personal life. Bibek Debroy, an economist of repute and a prolific and authoritative author on Indian heritage and epics, expounded on India's glorious heritage on his show "Ithihasaa." Another economist, Dr Sanjeev Sanyal, has been hosting "Economic Sutra" to speak about India's economic strides. Former diplomat Vikas Swaroop, the author of Slumdog Millionaire, dissected international affairs with an Indian angle on his "Diplomatic Dispatch". With over seven million YouTube subscribers, Sansad TV guarantees huge exposure. All its shows have rich content, which commercially motivated channels lack. However, these shows are running into problems. Both Tharoor and Chaturvedi left in protest, while others aren't sure about an uninterrupted continuity of their shows since the channel hasn't been allocated enough funds. They may have found sources from the Ministries they belong to. Perhaps, it wouldn't be a bad idea to deduct money from the salaries of MPs for disrupting House proceedings and spend it on bipartisan words of televised wisdom.

KARNATAKA: CASTE FACTOR & NEW SOCIAL COALITION

OPINION

DR SANDEEP SHASTRI

Director, Academics, NITTE Education Trust and National Coordinator Lokniti Network.

(sshastri48@gmail.com)

A state election that assumed national importance has witnessed the defeat of the ruling party. The Congress was returned to power in Karnataka with a clear majority. This confirms a trend that Karnataka has seen over close to four decades of the ruling party not being favoured with a majority in the next elections. Some would describe this result as an anti-incumbency vote against the state government, while others would see the result as reflecting the voters privileging the ₹local₹ over the ₹national₹. While both these arguments merit attention, this column will argue that the Congress succeeded because of its caste arithmetic adding up. The BJP and the Congress attempted to create a rainbow social coalition of castes to cross the halfway mark. The Congress effort succeeded, while the BJP experiment fell short of what was required.

Karnataka politics has often been seen through the prism of caste calculations. The dominant castes - Lingayats and Vokkaligas, have been key players in the state. The major forward caste in the state has been the Brahmins, whose numerical strength is limited, though it does play an influential role in key parties. The non-dominant backward castes have been a force to reckon with, while the Dalits and Tribals have impacted electoral outcomes. Religious minorities have sought to be mobilised on key issues. This context is critical to understanding (and appreciating) the Congress' victory in 2023.

The Lingayats have been largely supporting the BJP in the last two decades. They were the only party to offer a Lingayat Chief Minister candidate in B S Yediyurappa. This time around, data from the Axis-My India Poll indicates that they have retained much of the Lingayat vote, though a small chunk has moved to the Congress. The fact that the BJP did not project its sitting Chief Minister (who is a Lingayat) as their Chief Ministerial candidate and the departure of key Lingayat leaders from the BJP could have accounted for this decline.

The creditable performance of the Congress in Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) and Kittur Karnataka (Mumbai-Karnataka) regions has been because they have been able to consolidate the non-Lingayat vote (non-dominant OBCs, Dalits, Tribals and Muslims) and top it up with a slice of the Lingayat vote. In 2018, data indicates that a segment of the Non-Dominant OBC, Dalit, and Tribal vote had gone with the BJP. This time around, a section of that vote has returned to the Congress. The results in Northern Karnataka indicate the success of the rainbow social coalition that the Congress was able to stitch together.

In Coastal Karnataka, the BJP implemented its Gujarat Model of changing many sitting MLAs. The party's new candidates reflect a balancing of the important social groups in this region. This caste combination, along with the other specific dynamics of the region, possibly led to the BJP retaining a nearly upper hand in the region. Improved performance by the Congress in this region reflects the impact of anti-incumbency against BJP candidates and a possible consolidation of the minority vote in this region with the Congress. A marginal decline in the voting in Coastal Karnataka is also indicative of a lack of interest of the committed voters of the BJP.

Old Mysore saw the clear play of the caste factor. The Vokkaliga vote split 3-way, with JDS and Congress drawing the lion's share with a small slice siding with the BJP

Bengaluru city saw a keen competition between the Congress and the BJP and the sharing of seats. This time around, what added to the complexity were two factors. A chunk of those who moved from the Congress and JDS to the BJP during the term of the earlier legislature hailed from this region. Most of them won the elections. Secondly, it could be argued that the Prime Minister's rally over the weekend before the elections may have helped boost the BJP candidates' chances.

The Old Mysore region saw the clear play of the caste factor. The Vokkaliga vote saw a three-way split, with the Janata Dal (S) and the Congress drawing the lion's share with a small slice siding with the BJP. What is critical to explain the good performance of the Congress is the role of the rainbow social coalition of Non-Dominant Backward Castes, Dalits, Tribals and Muslims that it was able to garner the support of besides the Vokkaligas. The fact that the party did not declare a Chief Ministerial candidate to ensure the rainbow coalition remains in place needs to be kept in mind. Both Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar represented important social groups whose support was vital for the party. While the BJP also increased its vote share in this region, the steep fall of the Janata Dal(S) vote and the bulk of that moving to the Congress not only benefited the new ruling party but adversely affected the chances of BJP candidates.

The verdict, when viewed from the lens of caste calculations, indicates the success of the rainbow coalition that the Congress was able to stitch together. Its leadership, which included Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, were instrumental in bringing together this rainbow social coalition even as the minorities tended to vote for the Congress. The caste arithmetic added up, as did the social balancing across regions.

QUOTE CORNER

Allowing an MP or MLA facing disqualification to participate in a floor test caused by his own doings will defeat the very purpose of Tenth Schedule. Allowing such MLAs to attend a trust vote would amount to legitimising a constitutional sin

Justice D Y Chandrachud, CJI

It is our historical responsibility of modern generations to make full punishment for aggression inevitable in order to prevent not only the recurrence of aggression against our country, but also new wars

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President, Ukraine

We are ready to humanely process and remove people without a legal basis to be in the US. The border is not open

Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Homeland Security, USA

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Karnataka result

The BJP tried every trick in its bag to retain power in Karnataka. But the Congress stood up to the BJP onslaught and came out victorious. Now, it is up to the Congress to live up to its poll promises. The rejection of its double-engine slogan is a big jolt to the BJP.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Sebi probe

This refers to report, 'Hindenburg case: SC may give 3 months to SEBI to finish probe'. It raises eyebrows that till now SEBI has not been able to come up with a suitable solution. Furthermore, any dilly - dallying now shall erode the investor confidence. At a time when SEBI ought to perform its protective functions, it seems that it is solely shying away from its responsibility.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

Governors' ways

The 'Supreme Court has pressed the reset button of the Governors' (May 13) powers for their functioning in the states like Delhi and Maharastra. The non-BJP states' Governors are taking the power of the elected government, not allowing them to function independently. All those who have faith in democracy welcomed the Court verdict.

S Chockalingam, Kottaram

Doctor's murder

Instead of Kerala Health Minister Veena George being emotional in front of killed Dr Vandana's parents, she should have foreseen such a situation and made fool proof arrangements to ensure the safety of doctors. The young inexperienced intern may not have known how to face a violent man and had to face death as a result.

Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Protect doctors

The young house surgeon Dr Vandana Das was wantonly stabbed to death inside a hospital in Kerala. The version that the police fled the scene and left the house surgeon to the mercy of the attacker is shocking. Healthcare professionals are like the rest of us; we must have empathy for their situations. It is incumbent on the government to ensure their safety.

G David Milton, Maruthancode

Nurses' condition

Apropos 'Nightingales' take to new migratory routes' (May 12). Malayali nurses known for their dedication are forced to migrate to new pastures other than West Asian countries. They are now flocking to Canada, Australia and Europe. Working conditions of the descendants of the 'lady with the lamp' must improve in this country to avert a healthcare crisis.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Congress victory

The Congress win in Karnataka deserves appreciation. The rival and the ruling dispensation BJP has fought with all cylinders fired. The campaign witnessed long road shows by the PM. But regional issues have played a major role in deciding the result. That shows Modi's image can add shine to the campaign, but can't alter the course totally.

Dr D V G Sankararao, Vizianagaram

Federal structure

India is a parliamentary democracy with Federal structure. The relations between Union government and States are well-defined. Unfortunately, it is the Supreme Court of India which intervenes time again to settle disputes between state governments and the Union government particularly where States are ruled by different political parties. It is praiseworthy that Supreme Court gave unanimous judgement in granting administrative executive powers to elected government, against the backdrop of the friction between the government and Lt-Governor.

K S Sundaram, Coimbatore

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

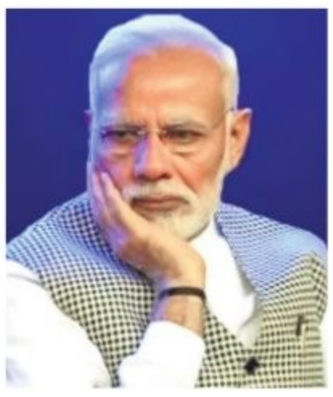
Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah
Now there is no way BJP will have the courage to allow Assembly elections to take place in J&K any time soon

Sachin Pilot @SachinPilot
Congratulations to the people of Karnataka, Congress leaders and workers on the victory of the Congress with a thumping majority

Derek O'Brien @derekobrienmp
#KarnatakaElectionResults
They came. They campaigned.
THEY GOT THRASHED.

BJP to introspect, PM congratulates Cong for victory

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi



BY all accounts, the defeat in Karnataka was demoralising for the saffron camp, which the silence at the BJP headquarters at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg conveyed eloquently.

The headquarters that echoed with laughter and lighthearted political banter till Friday wore a deserted look today as most party office-bearers refused to speak to the media over the Karnataka polls.

A senior functionary on the condition of anonymity remarked: "Ye Karnataka ka election ka result khatarnak hai (the result is frightening). It has come at a time when we are working to come to power in Rajasthan and Telangana. We should improve our accessibility with the people as well as the party's ground-level workers on social media."

Echoing the opinion, a party worker from West Bengal, sitting in the media-waiting enclosure, told this newspaper: "I am here for a couple of days for meeting senior party leaders. But, they are extremely inaccessible. It must be known to our PM Modi ji that 95% of ministers and 98% of the party's senior functionaries are extremely inaccessible to common people. In such a situation, results like that in Karnataka are inevitable."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was graceful in the face of the party's stunning defeat: "I thank all those who have supported us in the Karnataka polls. I appreciate the hard work of BJP karyakartas," he tweeted.

"We shall serve Karnataka with even more vigour in the times to come. Congratulations to the Congress party for their victory in the polls. My best wishes to them," said the PM.

Party sources said factors such as the lack of accessibility, anti-incumbency, excluding many experienced sitting MLAs at the eleventh hour, delayed nomination of candidates, incompetence of MLAs who were inactive during the Covid pandemic and the lack of communication between party's state leaders and the marginalized sections worked against us in the Karnataka polls.

Another BJP section working at party offices felt that the party's agenda on Uniform Civil Code, NRC and other promises made through the manifesto did not go well with the voters.

"The time has come to do more and speak less", said Sudhir Kumar, a BJP worker.

Trying to conceal despondency, a senior party worker, sporting a 'tilak' quipped: "We are Ram bhakat but this time pram-rambhakat Hanuman ji did not help us. Ham se kya bhul huyee, ab Bajrangbali he jane (what mistake we made only the supreme devotee of Lord Ram Bajrangbali knows)."

Love wins over politics of hate, says Rahul on K'taka

Says similar trend will be repeated in other state elections as well

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reacts as he talks to the media on results of the Karnataka Assembly polls in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

AS the Congress is all set to form the government in Karnataka after its spectacular victory, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said that the result illustrates that politics of 'love' trumped hatred' in the state.

"We contested Karnataka polls with love, not hate," he said. Going by the latest reports, Congress has secured 136 seats in the 224-member Karnataka assembly in the high-octane battle.

Addressing workers at AICC headquarters in the capital, a visibly-elated Gandhi said, "The market of hate has been shut, and shops of love have opened. Love has defeated hatred and this will be repeated in other states too", referring to the upcoming elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, which are expected to take place in the second half of the year. He pointed out that Congress did not use any divisive tactics or hatred during the campaign. The people of Karnataka had shown the power of love and harmony over hate to the whole country, he added.

Throughout his four-month-long Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi's message to the people was to 'open up shops to spread love in the market of hatred".

Gandhi also congratulated and thanked the people of Karnataka and the party workers who worked hard for this emphatic victory in the state.

"I want to thank the people of Karnataka, Congress workers, and leaders who worked in the state for the party," he said. Hailing the power of the people, Gandhi said that the poor stood up to crony capitalists. He said in Karnataka the power of the common man and poor people defeated the might of crony capitalism.

He also said that it was a victory of love, harmony, and brotherhood against the politics of divisive hatred.

"It was a fight between the poor and crony capitalism. And the poor won over the crony capitalists," he said, amid the loud cheers of workers.

The Gandhi scion also assured that the promises by the party in the manifesto will be fulfilled in the first Cabinet meeting of the new government. "Congress' five key guarantees in the manifesto include a promise of 200 units of free electricity to every household, Rs 2,000 a month to women heads of families, 10 kilos of foodgrain to BPL families, free travel for women in state buses, and Rs 3000 to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma holders monthly.

The AICC office saw fireworks and workers distributed sweets to celebrate the thumping victory of the party. The HQ wore a festive look as workers kept streaming since the counting of votes began in the morning.

BOOST TO OPPN AHEAD OF 2024: VENUGOPAL

The sweeping victory of the Congress party in the Karnataka elections will be a morale boost for the entire Opposition parties ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, said AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal. Speaking to this newspaper, Venugopal said that the Karnataka result is a mandate against the BJP's hate politics. While all eyes are now on who will be the next Chief Minister of the state, the Rajya Sabha MP said that it will be decided amicably and there is no dispute over the CM post. Now, the Congress will be focusing on poll-bound states Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh and Telangana.

BJP on backfoot in Maha also: Pawar

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said people of Karnataka has rejected the hatred and communal politics of BJP. He said that top leaders of the BJP used religion in election campaign to get the votes. "BJP toppled Congress and JD (S) government in Karnataka like in Maharashtra. People did not like it therefore they voted against the BJP," Pawar said. BJP misused the central agencies against their opponents, he added. "People of Karnataka rejected the corruption-led government. We MVA also need to come together and fight against the BJP. The situation in Maharashtra is also against the BJP. We will soon have meeting with alliance partners and discuss the strategy," Sharad Pawar said. Uddhav Thackeray said after Karnataka, BJP will be kicked out from Maharashtra as well

Didi hails verdict, leaves Cong out

West Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee termed the the Karnataka Assembly election results as people's verdict in favour of vote-to-no BJP and unity in diversity. She, however, did not mention the name of Congress. "Elections in Chhattisgarh and MP are also coming and in both the states, the BJP will face defeat there. Beginning of the end of the BJP before the 2024 LS elections has already begun," said Mamata. Though she appreciated HD Kumaraswami for JDS performance, she did not drop names of Congress and Rahul Gandhi while congratulating the candidates who secured victory against the BJP. "Kumaraswami also has done well in the elections. I congratulate all the wining candidates," she said.

Win shatters illusion created by BJP: Raja

CPI General Secretary D Raja said people of Karnataka have changed the perception that Modi is unbeatable and shatted the "illusion" created by BJP and Sangh. Congress's win will have an impact on the upcoming Assembly elections in various states, as well as the 2024 LS polls, Raja said. "Karnataka has rejected the politics of hatred & divide through a decisive mandate. Modi-Shah's campaign neglected core issues and focused on polarisation. That design stands defeated. CPI supported the Congress on 215 seats and contributed in upholding secularism & democracy. Illusion of Modi's invincibility is shattered. We congratulate the people of Karnataka for rejecting hate and expect pro-people, harmonious rule from INC," Raja tweeted.

A defeat for Modi, says grand-alliance

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar led the state's Mahaghatbandhan in congratulating Congress for unseating BJP from power in Karnataka. "Hearty congratulations and best wishes to the Indian National Congress party for the victory and clear majority in the Karnataka Assembly General Elections," Nitish tweeted after Congress swept the polls. JD (U) and RJD also took a dig at BJP, saying that the assembly election result was a pointer to the 2024 Lok Sabha election's outcome. JD (U) national president and MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh aka Lalan Singh said, "Karnataka assembly election's outcome is a big message for the 2024 parliamentary election. Modi magic is on the wane as it fails to work in the state," he commented.

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

HUMBLE MAN AND THE INVINCIBLE WARRIOR

BALA CHAUHAN

SOURAV ROY

THE man who barring once in his half-a-century political career has never tasted defeat is at the centre of the Congress sweep in Karnataka. The party has put up the second-highest score, 136 out of 224 seats. In 1989, the party secured an unprecedented victory in which it grabbed 179 seats. Veerendra Patil was at the helm, then.

Mallikarjun Kharge entered politics in 1969 as the town president of Gulbarga. He was a trade union leader. Son of a mill worker, he lost his mother and sister in 1948 when their house was set afire by the Razakars, Nizam's army, at their village Varwatti in Bidar district. Kharge was playing near his house and his father was working in the field when the tragedy struck.

Kharge was born to Mapanna and Saibavva. He is married to Radhabai. The couple has five children, three sons and two daughters. Barring his one son and Chittapur MLA Priyank, the rest of his children stay away from politics and maintain a low profile. Priyank says his father expects his children to be aware citizens and have empathy.

The 80-year-old All India Congress Committee president Kharge is one of the last surviving Ambedakarites. He missed on three occasions the opportunity to become the CM of Karnataka.

He and former Congress CM of Karnataka Dharam Singh were great friends. Together, they were famous as Dharam-Karam of Karnataka politics. Kharge joined the Congress in 1969 paying 25 paise (chaar aana) as a membership fee, recalls octogenarian resident of Kalaburagi, Mushtaq Khan.

He has taken the state back to the Grand Old Party from its formidable rival BJP with the major groundwork done by KPCC president DK Shivakumar and CLP leader and former CM Siddaramaiah. The trio worked as a team and put up a collective fight. The first list of nominees was issued first by Congress 45 days ahead of the polls.

Kharge knows the state politics like the back of his hand. The knowledge of the state; caste matrix and political maneuvering greatly helped the central party leaders in identifying the right candidates for the assembly polls and minimized dissent during ticket distribution. He was the bridge between the central party leaders, especially the Gandhis and the state leaders.

Known for his hard work and commitment, Kharge didn't leave Karnataka after April 14 - Ambedkar Jayanti day. "He worked for over 18 hours a day without a break, conducted 43 public meetings and travelled over 3,000 km across the state with eyes and ears to the ground. Towards the end of the campaign, on May 8, he had developed severe back pain but he told me that he has to reach out to the people to protect democracy)," said author Chetan Bhimrao Shinde, who along with the former chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Dr Sukhdev Thorat has co-authored a compilation of over 70 articles titled, 'From Nowhere to Up There: Political Journey of Compassion, Social Justice and Inclusive Development,' to felicitate Kharge on his 80th birthday and 50 years of his political career.

NEWSMAKER

Kharge is the third AICC president representing the Dalit community after Damodaram Sanjivayya and Jagjivan Ram (1970-71) and the first president outside the Nehru-Gandhi family after 23 years. Kharge has remained a Congress loyalist since his first election from Gurumitkal, Karnataka, in 1972 at the age of 27 years.

Kharge has won assembly elections a record nine consecutive times from 1972, 1978, 1983, 1985, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 from Gurumitkal, 2008 from Chittapur (after delimitation). He contested for Lok Sabha from Gulbarga in 2009. He became labour minister for four years followed by railway ministry for one year. After UPA lost elections in 2014 he was appointed the floor leader in the Lok Sabha.

In 2019, he lost the LS poll from Gulbarga after which he was elected as the Rajya Sabha member in 2020 from Karnataka following the end of Gulam Nabi Azad's tenure.

When free from humdrum of politics, Kharge's love for reading and games, especially kabbadi and football, is well known. He prefers regional vegetarian food and is a stickler for time.

His socialist background, humble beginnings with personal tragedies at a very young age enhanced his ability to connect and empathise with the man on the street. A degree in law and ideological commitment towards Lokshahi has made him the solillada sardara (invincible warrior).

Seizures show gold biscuits preferred form for smuggling yellow metal

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

AS gold prices exceed the Rs 61,000 per gram mark, the smuggling of the yellow metal has risen considerably with smugglers adopting innovative means to give a slip to the authorities. While airports are the perfect place to smuggle gold as powder or granules in a paste-like substance, the eastern frontier sees gold biscuits as a preferred form for smuggling.

In two separate incidents at Chennai International Airport last week, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 23.34 kg of smuggled foreign gold valued at Rs 14.43 crore and foiled an attempt to smuggle foreign gold into the country.

On May 8, the DRI officers caught a passenger coming from Dubai via Colombo, carrying 13.28 kg of foreign origin worth ₹8.28 crore. Whereas, on May 11, a Sri Lankan national was intercepted at Chennai airport coming from Colombo for carrying gold in paste form, weighing 10.06 kg and worth ₹6.15 crore.

In the last fortnight, the Border Security Force has seized gold biscuits worth over Rs 10 crore foiling more than six attempts to smuggle gold near the border in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal. In one of the incidents last week, the BSF apprehended two smugglers along with 52 gold biscuits worth ₹4.24 crore at ICP Petrapole in the same district. The consignment was seized from two passengers travelling from Bangladesh to India through the Royal Friendship International Passenger Bus, which operates from Agartala via Dhaka to Kolkata. Mumbai airport has emerged as the most popular entry point for gold smugglers. A seizure of 604kg of yellow metal valued at ₹360 crore at the Mumbai international airport last year till February this year has earned it the top spot in India for smuggling, beating national capital Delhi, which seized 374kg and Chennai 306kg, as per the data from the finance ministry.

Though the airports in the south Indian cities of Chennai, Kozhikode and Hyderabad have also been favourite gateways of smugglers, with the customs officials being issued alert advisories, the overall seizures have been low last year compared to Mumbai and Delhi.

Army gets 'Anuman' for accurate artillery firing

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Indian Army has tied up with the Ministry of Earth Sciences to get accurate and reliable weather forecasts which play a very important role in operations.

Indian Army Vice-chief Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar will launch here 'Anuman' application here on May 19. The app has been designed and developed to provide detailed weather projections to the army's formations deployed along the Chinaborder.It has been developed in collaboration with the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).

Indian Army and NCMRWF had inked an MoU in this regard on November 24 last year. As per the MoU, the Indian Army will help NCMRWF for collection of observations along Northern borders and will in near future receive customized products for higher resolution weather forecasts for its components along the borders with China.

On the significance of accurate and reliable forecast, a source said: "It is critical as it helps the ground commanders to plan in carrying out operations. The Artillery units use them on a regular basis to "temper its weapon platforms before firing projectiles through the earth's atmosphere."Sources also said data from NCMRWF has helped artillery fire more accurately.

Elaborating on the utility of Anuman a source said: "Weather forecast is important for gathering all kinds of intelligence (Human, Signal, Electronic, Satellite etc) and surveillance. Also, bad weather may disturb the optical devices and the seismic devices too which gather movement and vibrations."Elaborating further on advantages for both humans and equipment, sources added, bad weather brings down efficiency of both humans and equipment thus a clear picture will help in better preparations. Also, the equipment can be saved from thewear and tear including the rubberised parts and lubricants. It is pertinent to mention here that the Army is observing 2023 as the 'Year of Transformation' and has taken initiatives towards upgrading its technology profile adding battlefield surveillance system, Situational Awareness Module for the Army, Situational Reporting Over Enterprise-Class GIS Platform(E-Sitrep), Project Avagat, Project Indra among others. These projects are aimed to "reshape and re-engineer" the functional processes and bring in a "quantum jump" in the force's capabilities.

COMMANDO CREMATED

A Navy commando, who lost his life when his parachute got entangled in high-tension wire and caught fire during a training exercise in Uttar Pradesh, was cremated with military honours in Samba district of J&K on Saturday.

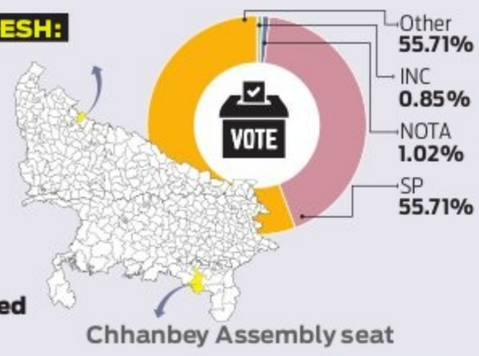
2.5kg DRUGS SEIZED OFF INDIA'S WESTERN COAST

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

BJP AND ALLIES SCORE BIG IN ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

BJP-led NDA wins both Suar and Chhanbey seats in UP; BJD remains invincible in Odisha while UDP wins Meghalaya

UTTAR PRADESH:
Suar seat



Chhanbey Assembly seat

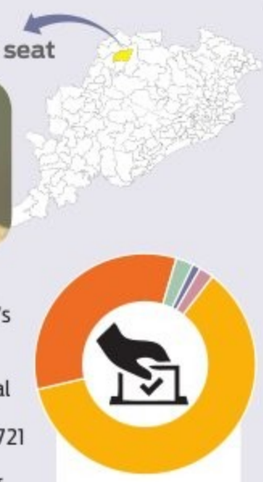
Shafeek Ahmed Ansari

The ruling BJP-led coalition ended Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's over four-decade dominance in Rampur with its ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) winning the Suar assembly seat. Apna Dal (S) candidate Shafeek Ahmed Ansari defeated SP's Anuradha Chauhan by a margin of 8,724 votes.

Rinki Kol

Apna Dal (Soneylal) candidate Rinki Kol defeated her nearest rival Samajwadi Party's Kirti Kol by approximately 9,500 votes to win the Chhanbey Assembly bypoll in UP. The bypoll was necessitated following the death of sitting Apna Dal (S) MLA Rahul Prakash Kol. The party fielded his wife, Rinki Kol, hoping to bag the seat riding on the 'sympathy' factor.

ODISHA:
Jharsuguda seat



Dipali Das

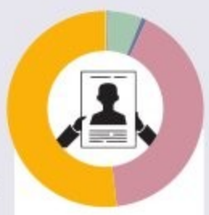
Biju Janata Dal's Dipali Das defeated her nearest BJP rival Tankadhar Tripathy by 48,721 votes. Dipali is the daughter of Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, whose assassination in January allegedly by a police officer necessitated the Jharsuguda bypoll in Odisha.

- BJD: **60.93%**
- BJP: **33.24%**
- INC: **2.56%**
- NOTA: **1.18%**
- Other: **2.10%**

MEGHALAYA:
Sohiong seat

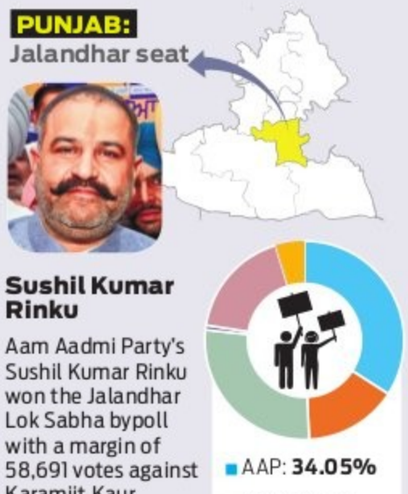
Synshar Kupar Roy Lyngdoh Thabah

Synshar Kupar Roy Lyngdoh Thabah of the United Democratic Party (UDP) won Sohiong assembly bypoll by 3,422 votes against Samlin Malngiang of the National People's Party (NPP). The bypoll was necessitated after the death of UDP candidate HDR Lyngdoh ahead of the assembly elections.



- AITC: **0.28%**
- BJP: **0.12%**
- HSPDP: **0.19%**
- INC: **5.48%**
- NOTA: **0.85%**
- NPEP: **41.22%**
- UDP: **51.86%**

PUNJAB:
Jalandhar seat



Sushil Kumar Rinku

Aam Aadmi Party's Sushil Kumar Rinku won the Jalandhar Lok Sabha bypoll with a margin of 58,691 votes against Karamjit Kaur Chaudhary of Indian National Congress. The defeat is a major setback for the Congress as Jalandhar has been its bastion and the party has remained undefeated from the seat since 1999.

- AAP: **34.05%**
- BJP: **15.19%**
- INC: **27.44%**
- NOTA": **0.75%**
- SAD: **17.85%**
- SP: **0.15%**
- Other: **4.56%**

BJP sweeps UP urban local body polls

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

IN the UP urban local body polls, the ruling BJP put up an impressive show swept winning all 17 mayoral seats. In 2017, the party had bagged 14 of the total 16 seats, losing two to Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

However, this time, the Opposition failed to open account in municipal corporations' mayoral contest.

Leaving his rivals behind, chief minister Yogi Adityanath addressed over 50 rallies in 12 days to set the tone for the civic polls, unlike SP chief Akhilesh Yadav who ended up addressing just nine poll rallies in all. The BSP chief did not find it important to reach out to voters and Congress leadership was pre-occupied with Karnataka campaign.

BJP not only swept the mayoral seats, but also improved its tally on 199 Nagar Palika (Municipal Boards) seats and 544 Nagar Panchayat seats.

As per the political pundits, the split in Muslim votes among SP, BSP and AIMIM played a significant role in BJP's victory on several seats, especially in west UP. In Meerut, Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM threw a surprise by emerging as the main contender of the BJP, pushing the Samajwadi Party to number three position in poll for the mayor's post. AIMIM even won two wards in Meerut and one in the temple town of Ayodhya till the result last came in.

However, in this election, the BJP tried to break its image and perception of being an anti-Muslim party by giving tickets to over 350 Muslim candidates for different posts at Municipal Corporations, Municipal Boards and Nagar panchayat level.

On the other, the BSP had fielded 11 Muslims for the 17 mayoral posts. At the same time, the independents who made 66 er cent of the total candidates in fray, played spoilsport for many political players like SP, BSP and Congress.

Among the political parties, BJP had fielded the highest number of candidates – 10,758, followed by the SP (5231) , BSP (3787), Congress (2994) and Aam Admi Party (2447). The political experts felt that the opposition did not get enough candidates to filed in several constituencies.

The BJP's comprehensive win in the civic polls elections is attributed to the carpet bombing by UP CM who left nothing to chance undertaking a whirlwind tour of the state.

Just a year ahead of the 2024 general elections, the UP Civic polls results proved to be a setback to SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's bid to project himself as a potent challenger to the BJP.

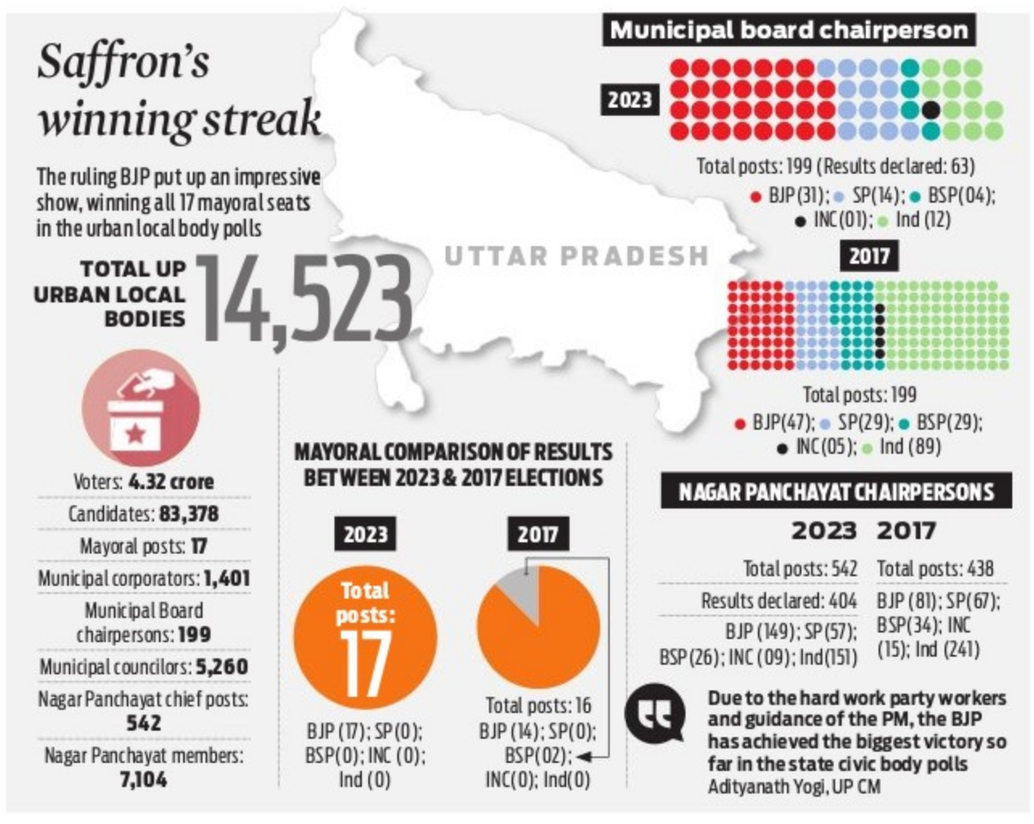
Even he seemed to have lost the dedicated support of the Muslim clout which had stood solidly behind him in 2022 UP assembly polls.

In Moradabad, where SP has ST Hassan as its MP, the party was relegated to number four position in mayoral poll.

Similarly, in Sambhal, represented in Lok Sabha by SP MP Shafiqur Rehman Barq , the party lost badly.

Although the SP couldn't win any seat in 2017 as well, this time it was hoping to win some in west UP owing to its alliance with Rashtirya Lok Dal but it made no difference to SP's performance.

Calling it the biggest victory of the BJP in UP civic polls so far, CM Yogi Adityanath attributed the landslide win to 'good governance' and a 'sense of security' besides PM Narendra Modi's leadership and guidance, here on Saturday.



AAP wrests Cong citadel of Jalandhar after 24 yrs, BJP loses security deposit

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

A Lok Sabha by-election a few months ahead of the parliamentary polls holds a symbolic value, that's the traditional logic. However, the Jalandhar bypoll result has something more to show: the ruling AAP has won, snatching the seat from Congress that kept is hold over the seat for 24 years, and the BJP forfeited its deposit despite its vote share going up.

AAP's "parachute candidate" **Sushil Kumar Rinku** won the seat defeating his nearest Congress rival Karamjit Kaur Chaudhary by a margin of 58,691 votes.

AAP saved its prestige as it had lost the Sangrur by-poll last shortly after coming to power with a massive majority in Punjab. The win has given confidence to AAP for the civic body polls due soon.

Former Congress MLA Rinku switched loyalty days before the by-election. He is now the new AAP MP from Jalandhar. During the campaign for the by-poll the ruling AAP highlighted its recent achievements such as 300 units of free power to domestic consumers, the 580 AAP clinics being set up by their government and the filling of 28,000 government vacancies.

The party leadership had appealed to the electorate that the party should be given 11 months before the Lok Sabha polls next year to perform because it has been just one year since the party came to power in the state.

This apparently struck an

emotional chord with voters who were of the view that they will wait and see if AAP fulfills its promises before the parliamentary elections. Besides, the party reached out to every 'dera' in the area that has a huge following among the voters.

The bypoll was necessitated by the demise of Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary who died during the Bharat Jodo Yatra earlier this year.

The BJP was pushed to the 4th place, losing its security deposit, despite running an aggressive campaign. Its former ally Shiromani Akali Dal in alliance with BSP stood a poor third.

The BJP though improved its vote share from 12% in the last assembly polls to 15.19%.

Complimenting AAP workers for their work, AAP supremo and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said, "We do the politics of work and seek votes from people for our work, and people have put a stamp of approval on Bhagwant Mann government's work."

Congress counters ED raids on liquor scam with Baghel 'self-esteem' posters

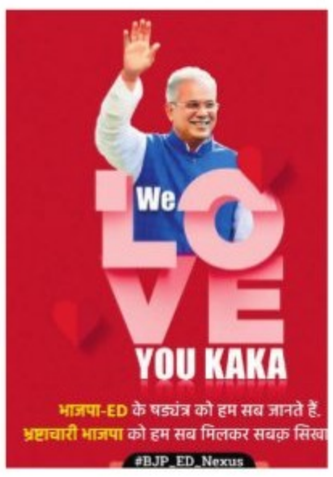
EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

AMID the ongoing Enforcement Directorate's (ED) raids and investigation into alleged scam on liquor and coal under Prevention of Money Laundering Act in Chhattisgarh, the ruling Congress has begun countering it by propagating local sentiments and calling chief minister Bhupesh Baghel 'Chhattisgarhiya Swabhiman' (self-esteem of Chhattisgarh).

The move came after the chief minister alleged that the federal probe agency is working as an agent of the BJP in the election year.

The state Congress has targeted the ED's actions with the campaign 'Chhattisgarhiya Swabhiman'. They are running it on the internet with posters supporting the CM while alleging that the BJP is conspiring with the central agency.

"The key agenda of the ED is to defame the state government. The way false cases have been concocted and petrified



people, there is an attempt to include my name in the alleged excise scam case. The BJP has entered into a conspiracy with the ED as the opposition is not able to persevere politically in the state", alleged the CM, adding that the ED is colluding with liquor companies now.

The Opposition BJP demanding resignation of the CM countered that the alleged liquor and other scams in the state on a major scale couldn't have ensued without the links of the Congress government.

Referring to the statements of the ED, the BJP said the commissions were collected from liquor dealers via the 'syndicate scam' amount touching ₹2,000 crore.

The Congress leaders also lodged a complaint with the Economic Offence Wing and Anti-Corruption Bureau (EOW-ACB) in Raipur seeking an investigation against the liquor companies in the alleged scam with the claim that the ED is not initiating any action against them.

"If the ED believes there were illegal liquor sales and evasion of taxes then why has no action been taken against such companies. Is the central agency safeguarding the errant alcoholic beverage distillers? We have sought a probe and legal actions into the irregularities, said Dhananjay Thakur, Congress spokesperson.

Fate of captured leopard hangs in balance

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

THE fate of a leopard, which was caught by the authorities four days ago in Pachwadun area of Dehradun district, hangs in the balance amid increasing incidents of leopard and tiger attacks in Uttarakhand.

A leopard killed a 4-year-old boy last week, but it is not clear whether the animal caught is the one which was responsible for it. A decision will be taken after cross-matching the DNA of the dead child and the leopard to ascertain if it was killed by the one leopard which is now in 'custody'.

Forest department officials are unable to release the big cat due to departmental formalities. One of the main reasons for this is that a total of four rescue centers in the state do not have space to keep new animals in the absence of additional shelters.

The two-and-a-half-year-old healthy leopard has been currently kept in a four-foot-wide, seven-foot-long cage.

"After being sent to the rescue centre, the leopard's DNA sample will be taken, which will be sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad for examination. After this, the DNA sample of the deceased child will be matched. If the samples do not match, the release of the leopard will be considered," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Anup Malik said.

Amresh Kumar, DFO, Kalsi forest division, told this newspaper, "Talks are going on with the authorities about the rescue center and zoo. At present, the leopard has been kept in the Timli range of Kalsi forest division and will soon be shifted to the rescue center".

On May 6, a leopard had picked up a child playing in the courtyard of a house from Mehmood Nagar basti. The next day, the child's mutilated body was found in a mango orchard. On May 11, a leopard was captured in a cage by the Forest department.

Dr Deepti Arora, who has served in Rajaji Tiger Reserve and at Doon Zoo, says that keeping healthy leopards in a cage for a long time is not right.

A 4-year-old boy was killed last week by a leopard, but it is not yet clear whether the animal caught was the one which was responsible for it | EXPRESS

'DNA to be matched'

The leopard's DNA sample will be taken and sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad for examination. After this, the DNA sample of the deceased child will be matched. If the samples do not match, the release of the leopard will be considered," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Anup Malik said. The cross-matching is to ascertain if it was killed by the one leopard which is now in 'custody'.

"The biggest danger is self-injury. Apart from this, a heart attack can also occur due to a weak heart. If a leopard is healthy, it will have to be shift from the cage soon," she said.

In the last 8 months, tiger and leopard terror is at its peak in the hilly and even plains of Uttarakhand. Six people, including two elderly people, have lost their lives in wildlife clashes in Pauri Kotdwar Vikasnagar area till March-April and May 10. This indicates the rising leopards population and their activities towards cities.

DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI
Our correspondent in Uttarakhand
narendrasethi@newindianexpress.com

Govt hikes honorarium for 'democracy saviours'

The state BJP government has decided to increase the honorarium given to Jana Sangh workers, who were jailed and tortured during the Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, from `16,000 to `20,000. The Pushkar Singh Dhami government has now included the dependents of pensioners under the new rules. Those who suffered jail torture during the Emergency were declared as 'Loktantra Senani' (democracy saviours) by PM Narendra Modi and these fighters, who were jailed during the period from June 25, 1975 to March 21, 1977, were given assistance of `16,000.

Harish Rawat to leave politics soon?

Senior Congress leader in Uttarakhand Harish Rawat has once again sparked a debate in the state by making an emotional statement regarding his political reign. "This will be my last political stay in Delhi. I will go there to congratulate the Congress leadership for karnataka's victory." He said he now wants to use the rest of his energy to bring the Uttarakhand Congress back to power. 'Political statements' and 'truth' are usually not closely related, but this time Rawat, who is considered the pioneer of the Congress in Uttarakhand politics, seemed to be upset, while it also seems that he is in the mood to say goodbye to his political innings.

Border villagers are the sentinels of nation: Modi

Responding to a letter written by Harish Rana, the head of Jaspur village, on the inclusion of Upla Taknoor region of Uttarakhand in the Vibrant Village programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, he was happy that in today's changing scenario, there has been a change in the attitude of the people towards border villages. The PM further said in the letter, "These strategically important villages and their people are strong sentinels of the country". He said that efforts are being made at various levels to highlight their true identity in the border areas and to develop them.

IMRAN BLAMES ARMY CHIEF FOR ARREST

ISLAMABAD

FORMER Pakistan PM Imran Khan has torn into Pakistan's Army chief General Asim Munir and blamed him for his "abduction" after a court here set the former prime minister free and barred his re-arrest in any case until Monday. A triumphant Imran returned to his Lahore home on Saturday after having locked himself in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises for hours for fear of re-arrest despite being granted bail on Friday. Before leaving for Lahore, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief hit out at the "imported government for kidnapping" him despite the IHC granting him bail in all cases.

"They have kidnapped me and forcibly kept me here. I want to tell the whole nation that it is their bad intention, they want to do something again and the whole nation should ready itself to protest," he said. After spending nearly 11 hours on the IHC premises, the ex-premier, clad in a sky blue shalwar kameez and a dark blue waistcoat, finally left the federal capital without addressing charged PTI workers who remained on the streets throughout the day. Earlier, he interacted with media persons during the break time on the premises of the IHC on Friday, the *Dawn* newspaper reported on Saturday.

When asked about the impression that security agencies were against him whereas the judiciary was favouring him, Imran told a BBC correspondent: It's not the security agencies. It's one man, the Army chief. There is no democracy in the Army. The Army is getting maligned with what is happening".

"And he (the Army chief) is worried that if I come to power, I will de-notify him...All this is happening is direct orders from him. He is the one who is convinced that if I win, he will be de-notified," alleged Imran. In a major relief to Imran, the IHC on Friday granted him protective bail for two weeks in a corruption case and barred the authorities from arresting the former Pakistan prime minister in any case registered anywhere in the country until Monday.

Three different benches of the IHC granted relief to Imran who was escorted to the court amid tight security. Imran was arrested by paramilitary Rangers from the Islamabad High Court while he was undergoing a biometric process before a court hearing in a corruption case.

When a journalist asked him about getting relief from the Supreme Court which had never been provided to any other politician, the PTI chief said it could not be called a relief when he was still sitting in the court. "I am sitting in the Islamabad High Court. They had no justification to arrest me. I was abducted. They showed me a warrant for the first time after taking me to jail. This happens only where there is a law of the jungle," he said. *AFP*

Supporters throw rose petals towards a vehicle carrying Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan to greet him upon his arrival at his home in Lahore

2 Palestianians killed in israeli raid on West Bank on Saturday

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	28	11	TDS	Los Angeles	26	12	LC
Colombo	32	24	LC	Melbourne	14	11	HR
Dhaka	38	26	TDS	Moscow	14	4	HR
Dubai	31	22	SNY	New York	18	9	LC
Houston	23	15	SNY	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	10	8	LC	Toronto	14	7	LC
London	14	6	LC	Washington	19	7	LC

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client is intending to purchase residential vacant site bearing No. 60, situated at Gubbalalu Village in the Layout formed by The Jayanagara Co operative Housing Society Ltd., formed at Gubbalalu and Turahalli Layout II Stage comprising of lands in various Sy. Nos. of Gubbalalu Village and Turahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently within the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No. 184 morefully described in Schedule hereunder measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 36.0+39.0/2 feet in all 1,500 Sq. feet Bounded on

East by : Road.
West by : Site No. 45.
North by : Private Property.
South by : Site No. 59.

from Mr. Ajay Naik, S/o. Late. C. L. Mohandas Naik, aged about 57 years, residing at No. D 203, Laburnum Block, Brigade Millennium, Puttenahalli, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore – 560 078.

Any person having any right, title, interest and claim whatsoever in and over the Schedule property or any liability, may lodge their claims/ objections with documentary proof with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, otherwise my client shall proceed to complete the Sale transaction as if there are no subsisting claims or objections and that all such claims or objections not filed in time shall be deemed / presumed to have been waived and shall not be binding on my client.

Sd/ **B. B. Umadevi**, Advocate,
Roll No. 369/75, No. 715, 1st 'C' Main, 8th Block, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 070.
Mob. 9343281627 Date: 12.05.2023

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in)

CE/C-I/SC, CE/C-III/SC, CE/C-V/SC, CE/C-III/SC & CE/C-II/SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

SNo:- 1, NIT No:- 18-CAO- C-SC-2023 Date: 03/05/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction Organization - Guntakal Division - Doubling between Nandya and Betancherla stations: i. Proposed construction of station buildings at Bugganipalli cementnagar crossing station, Krishnammakona Halt station and Panyam crossing station including earthwork for platforms, platform fencing wall, platforms & COPs, RR masonry, compound wall, circulating area and laying roads; ii) Proposed construction of FOBs at Bugganapalli and Panyam stations; iii) Proposed construction of End Goomties, IB huts, LC gate lodges and other miscellaneous works between Nandyal and Bethamcherla station. **Details:- Estimated Cost:-** Rs 25,98,72,465.98, **EMD:** Rs.14,49,400.00, **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months., **Date of Opening:** 26/05/2023 15:00hrs.

SNo:- 2., NIT No:- 19-CAO-C-SC-2023 Date: 03/05/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction Organisation - Kotipalli-Narsapur New BG line - Revised FLS between Amalapuram - chinchinada stations from Km 58 to Km 90.40. **Details:- Estimated Cost:-** Rs 78,84,510.51, **EMD:-** 1,57,700.00, **Completion Period:-** 03 (Three) Months., **Date of Opening:-** 26/05/2023 15:00 hrs.

SNo:- 3., NIT No:- 20-CAO-C-SC-2023 Date: 03/05/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction organization - Secunderabad Division- Secunderabad - Kazipet section: Proposed Construction of All Weather Covered Shed over Pit lines at Charlapalli Station in connection with development of new Coaching Terminal Facilities at Charlapalli station. **Details:- Estimated Cost:-** Rs 1,67,67,16,190.00, **EMD:-** Rs. 10,33,600.00, **Completion Period:-** 06 (Six) Months., **Date of Opening:-** 26/05/2023 15:00hrs.

SNo:- 4, NIT No:- 21-CAO- C-SC-2023 Date: 11/05/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction Organisation- Guntur-Guntakal (Doubling): Manufacturing, supplying and installation of rubberized level crossing pads of approved quality and confirming to "Functional specification for Rubberized surface at Level Crossings" (as issued by RDSO in July-2019) at Railway track at the level crossings, by suitable claiming arrangements to make a rubberized road. The road surface of 3.50m width is to be prepared by using rubber pads of approved length and width along the track. Rubber pads inside the track are to be placed between two running rails and outside the running rails between the running rails and RCC edge beam. The item is inclusive of M-35 grade RCC edge beam at the edge to retain the assembly as per approved drawing AT LC No.264 at Km 82/9-83/0 of VKN Yard; LC No.283 at Km 44/9-45/0 of NRT Yard and LC No.291 at Km 35/3-4 of STUR Yard, **Details:- Estimated Cost:-** Rs 94,88,182.20, **EMD:-** Rs. 1,89,800.00, **Completion Period:-** 04 (Four) Months., **Date of Opening:-** 02/06/2023 15:00hrs.

SNo:- 5, NIT No:- 22-CAO-C-SC-2023 Date: 11/05/2023, **Name of work:-** SCR Construction Organisation - Kazipet-Balharshah Section - Proposed 3rd line with electrification between Kazipet - Balharshah stations - Maintenance of newly opened 3rd line track from Ch:312691.00m to Ch:343751.00m between Potkapalli and Uppal Stations (including both yards). **Details:- Estimated Cost:-** Rs 1,69,01,460.40, **EMD:-** Rs. 2,34,500.00, **Completion Period:-** 12 (Twelve)Months, **Date of Opening:-** 02/06/2023 15:00hrs

SNo:- 6, Corrigendum No.1,2&3 Dated 28.04.2023, 01.05.2023 & 11.05.2023, Intended bidders may please note the Corrigendum(s).

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in**.

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative Officer/ Const./Secunderabad

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre/ III, Banaswadi,
Maruthi Mansion, 7M/422, 80 feet Road Kalyan Nagar,
Bengaluru-560043, Tel:080-25943790-91,Email: sbi.15628@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

A/c Nos. HTL: 39067824886 / 39127916523

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) issued a Demand Notice dated **03.03.2023** calling upon the borrowers **Smt. Mamatha H P,** W/o. Prasanna Kumar M G & **Sri. Prasanna Kumar. M. G,** S/o. Siddappa M G, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **Rs.66,78,242/-** (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Two only) as on 02.03.2023 and interest & expenses thereonwithin 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowershaving failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on **12.05.2023.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.66,78,242/-** (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Two only) as on 02.03.2023 and interest + expenses thereon.

The borrower's/ mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Deed Regd. No. BSK-1-13421-2019-20, CD No. BSKD737, dt.17.01.2020 at SRO: Basavangudi (Banashankari) Bengaluru.

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site bearing Nos. 25, 26, 27 and 28, New Municipal No. 907/25/26,27 and 28, Property Sl. No. 907,** measuring Item No.1: East to West: **67-0 feet** and North to South: **(121-6+115-0)/ 2 feet, in all measuring: 7922.75 Square Feet** and measuring Item No. 2: East to West: **(5-0+8-0)/2 Feet,** both the Item Nos. 1 and 2 in all measuring: **8494.75 Square Feet,** formed out of land in bearing **Survey No. 2/3D2, Old Survey No. 2/3D,** totally measuring: 27 Guntas, (dully converted for non-agricultural residential purpose, vide conversion order bearing No. BDS/ALN/SR(S)/773/2004-05, dated 11-04-2005, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore), situated at **CHANNASANDRA VILLAGE,** Uttrahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Rajarajeshwarinagar Ward No. 160, Channasandra, Bangalore and bounded on the **East by:** Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Site No. 29 and **South by:** Private Property.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Three Bed Rooms** residential apartment/ flat bearing unit **No. FrF-402,** situated at **Fourth Floor,** having super built up area of **1360 Square Feet** along with **344 Square Feet** of undivided share of land in the Schedule 'A' Property with **one covered car parking area bearing No. FrF-402 in the basement floor,** in the above said multi-storied residential apartment/ building known as **"S.L.N. MEADOWS"** with water, electricity andsewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift/s, staircase/s and other areas pf common use etc., standing in the joint names of **Smt.Mamatha H P** and **Sri. Prasanna Kumar M G.**

Place:Bengaluru
Date: 12.05.2023

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
STATE BANK OF INDIA
RACPC-III, Banaswadi, Bengaluru

QuoteExpress
NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/ SC/72-75/2023/OT Dt: 09.05.2023 PUB/0484

For and on behalf of President of India, the under signed invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on 07.06.2023

Sl.No.:- 1., e-Tender No.:- 72_CR_SC_23_OT, **Name of the work:-** WD-SC-KZJ Section: (i)CTR (P) including recoupment and increasing of ballast cushion to 30 cm and deep screening of ballast for a total length 5.093 kms. (ii) TRR(P) for a total length of 5.773kms. (iii) TSR (P) including recoupment and increasing of ballast cushion to 35cm and deep screening of ballast for a total length of 2.79kms. under DEN/ Central/ SC section., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:-** 1,86,69,236/- **EMD [Rs.]:-** 2,43,400/-, **Completion period in Months:-** 09, **Maintenance period in Months:-** 45(Days)

Sl.No.:- 2., e-Tender No.:- 73_W_SC_23_OT, **Name of the work:-** (i)SC-WD Section: TSR (P) including recoupment and increasing of ballast cushion to 35cmand deep screening of ballast for a total length of 0.555kms.(ii) VKB- PRLI(SL): TRR (P) for a total length of 40.815 kms.(iii) TSR(P) including recoupment and increasing of ballast cushion to 35cm and deep screening of ballast for a total length of 1.33kms. under DEN/West/SC section., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:-** 1,92,18,279/- **EMD [Rs.]:-** 2,46,100/-, **Completion period in Months:-** 09, **Maintenance period in Months:-** 45 (Days)

Sl.No.:- 3., e-Tender No.:- 74_N_SC_23_OT, **Name of the work:-**Construction of Quarters-114 Nos. with funds of Tripling work in Sr. DEN/North/SC Jurdiction., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:-** 38,72,23,840/-, **EMD [Rs.]:-** 20,86,200/-, **Completion period in Months:-** 24, **Maintenance period in Months:-** 36

Sl.No.:- 4., e-Tender No.:- 75_N_SC_23_OT, **Name of the work:-** BPQ-KZJ Section: SW 1) Through Rail Renewal for a length of 14.407 kms. SW 2) Through Sleeper Renewal for a length of 6.646 kms. SW 3) CTR (S) for loop lines for a total length of 8.245kms. SW 4) Through Rail Renewal (S) of loop lines for a length of 11.275 kms. SW 5) TBR with BCM for a length of 4.857 Kms. SW 6) TBR with manual deep screening for loop lines for a length of 8.093 Kms. SW 7) TFR for a length of 134.62 kms. SW 8) TTR with TWS-8 sets, curved and CMSC-31 sets and derailing switches-8 sets under Sr.DEN / North/SC section., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:-** 7,29,33,486/-, **EMD [Rs.]:-** 5,14,700/-, **Completion period in Months:-** 12, **Maintenance period in Months:-** 45 (Days)

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.

2. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments / BG only.

3. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

4. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Sr.DEN/Co-ordination/ Secunderabad
A0694

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :– **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2023–24 : 46, कार्य का नाम व स्थान :** Strengthening to 28 bridges, by providing pointing, painting, marking of DL, HFL, flooring, apron, epoxy etc. on LN-SMR-BLDI section under ADEN/Samdari of SR.DEN/West section. , **अनुमानित लागत रूपये :** ₹ 2,33,57,874.17, **बयाने की राशि रूपये :** ₹ 2,66,800.00, निविदा सूचना संख्या 46 of 2023-24 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 31.05.2023 को 15.00 बजे तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है–www.ireps.gov.in

503-PR/23

हमें NWRailways NWRailways पर फॉलो करें

भारतीय अन्तर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
A-13, Sector -1, Noida-201301 (Uttar Pradesh) Tel.: 0120-2544036, 2544040

EOI FOR OPERATIONALIZATION OF NW-53 IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA ON PPP MODE

Online bids are invited for the above EoI. The date of download of EoI 12.05.2023 to 17.06.2023. Date of pre-proposal meeting 29.05.2023 at 1500 hrs. Last date of online submission of EoI: 17.06.2023 up to 1800 hrs. Date of opening: 19.06.2023 at 1530 hrs.

Detailed eligibility criteria and EoI along with Instruction to the Bidders can be seen at IWAI's website i.e. www.iwai.nic.in and https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

GOA STATE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

7th Floor, EDC House, Dr. Atmaram Borkar Road, Panaji - Goa
Tel.: (0832)-2493550 Email: email@gsidcltd.com

TENDER NOTICE

No: GSIDC/ENGG./NIT-14/2023-24 **Date: 12/05/2023**

GSIDC invites online bids under two bid system on Item Rate Basis from eligible Contractors / Agencies for the following works of: -

(A) Construction of Hostel to accommodate Post Graduate (MDS) students of Goa Dental College & Hospital, Bambolim- Goa. –(Estimated Cost – Rs.11,96,22,604.86).

(B) Construction of Modern Fire Station at Valpoi – Interior Works. – (Estimated Cost – Rs.80,67,062.00).

For detailed Tender Notice, please visit website **https://www.gsidcltd.com**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

O/o, THE OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT, MADRAS
"Corporate Bhavan" 2nd Floor, No. 29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600001.
Telephone No: 044-25271149/25271151
Website: www.mca.gov.in, Email : olmadras@gmail.com

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
IN THE MATTER OF
M/S. ALSA CONSTRUCTIONS & HOUSING LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
Company Petition No. 339 of 1999

NOTICE TO FLAT PURCHASER AND OTHER INVESTORS

Pursuant to the orders of Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 28.04.2023 in C.A.No. 383 of 2022 in C.P.No. 339/1999, notice is hereby given to all the allottees and investors of the above named company by the undersigned that all the allottees / creditors/investors of M/s. Alsa Constructions & Housing Limited are requested to attend the meeting at the O/o the undersigned as per the schedule hereunder to place their view.

S. NO.	NAME OF ALLOTTEES / CREDITORS	DATE AND TIME OF MEETING
1.	Allottees Kerala - Alsa Woodhaven - Cochin	18.05.2023 at 10.30 A.M.
2.	Alsa Sundale Cochin	
3.	Alsa-Bayville - Calicut	
4.	Alsa Sunny Brooke - Row House - Bangalore	
5.	Alsa - Sunny Brooke - Bangalore	
6.	Sriperumbudur Project	
7.	Alsa Townville - Block - B - Valasaravakkam	19.05.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
8.	Alsa - Townville - Block - C - Valasaravakkam	
9.	**PROJECT : TOWNSVILLE** Mahabalipuram Windstar Haven Willow Park Birch Wood Fernbrooke Hillhurst Peters Road	
10.	Unsecured Creditors	

DATED AT CHENNAI THIS THE 8th DAY OF MAY, 2023.

Sd/-
KEERTHI THEJ.N
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR (I/C),
HIGH COURT, MADRAS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that, my client is interested to purchase two items of immovable properties bearing BBMP Katha No.584/416 and BBMP Katha No.585/416/2 carved out of converted land in Sy No.34/2 of Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East talluk owned and possessed by **Sri. Vijaykumar Madupalli S/o Madupalli Mohan Gupta.** The details of the aforesaid properties are more fully described in the schedule mentioned hereunder.

In view of the above, it is hereby notified that, claims of ownership or such other claims if any have by the general public in respect of the schedule property, the same may be notified to the address given below in writing together with supporting documents with in a period of **7 (seven) days** from the date of this notification. If no valid claims or objections are received within stipulated period, my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with and complete the process of sale in respect of the aforesaid property. Claims/objections if any received on expiry of the stipulated period will be ignored.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing BBMP Katha No.584/416 (old No.584), Sl.No.1043, carved out of converted land in Sy No.34/2 of Belathur Village (converted by Tahasildar, Hosakote, Vide No.ALN.SR.22/82-83, dated 24.06.1982), Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently comes under the administrative limits of the Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward No.54, Hoodi, Bengaluru, measuring an extent of 3658 Sq.ft or 340 Sq.mtrs and bounded on the:

East By : Item No.2 of Schedule Property, West By : Private Property, North By : Private Property, South By : Private Property

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing BBMP Katha No.585/416/2 (old No.585), Sl.No.1045, carved out of converted land in Sy No.34/2 of Belathur Village (converted by Tahasildar, Hosakote, Vide No.ALN.SR.21/82-83, dated 24.06.82), Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently comes under the administrative limits of the Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ward No.54, Hoodi, Bengaluru, measuring an extent of 3658 Sq.ft or 340 Sq.mtrs and bounded on the

East By : Anekal -Bengaluru Road, West By : Item No.1 of Schedule Property, North by : Private property, South by : Private Property

A.T. MANOHAR, Advocate
No.55, 'SAISADANA', 13th'A'Cross, Sarakki Gate, 1st Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-78. Cell : 9902936363

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client/s is desirous to purchase the schedule property from its co-owners namely: I) Smt.Kadramma O, Wife of Late N Oblesh, Aged about 75 years, residing at No.210/A, M G Railway Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore, (PAN:KPMPK6460K / AADHAAR:7907 3081 3530), ii) Sri.O Balaraju, Son of Late N Oblesh, Aged about 65 years, residing at No.311/D, Railway Quarters, Railway Colony, Bangalore (PAN:AASPO0356R /AADHAAR:5681 0128 8114), iii) Sri.Venkatesh O, Son of Late N Oblesh, Aged about 60 years, residing at No.267/C, M G Railway Colony, Bangalore, (PAN:AJFPV3704Q / AADHAAR:3852 0935 9614), iv) Sri.O Krishna, Son of Late N Oblesh, Aged about 50 years, residing at No.311, Railway Quarters, Near Venkateshwara Temple, Magadi Road, Bangalore, (PAN:BOCPK2668K / AADHAAR:7143 1132 1448), v) Sri.Babu O, Son of Late N Oblesh, Aged about 49 years, residing at No.267/C, M G Railway Quarters, Magadi Road, Bangalore, (PAN: ANOPB5953G /AADHAAR:8563 3003 3562) and vi) Smt.Renuka O, Daughter of Late N Oblesh, Wife of Sri.Gangadhara A, Aged about 41 years, residing at No.15, First N Block, Near Vidyavardhaka School, BWSSB quarters, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, (PAN:ECOPR6695Q / AADHAAR:3544 9554 7932);

Any person/s, having any claim over the Schedule property and/or on the title deeds, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days hereof, failing which my client/s will proceed to conclude the sale transaction. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client/s;

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.723 (BDA No.723), situated at Fourteenth Main Road, Kumaraswamy Layout First Stage, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.181-Kumarswamy Layout (old ward No.55), PID No.55-306-723, together with structures standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Road;
West by : Property bearing No.763;
North by : Property bearing No.724;
South by : Property bearing No.722;

Measuring: East to west: 12.20 mtrs; North to South : 7.62 mtrs;

In all ad-measuring: 92.96 sq.mtrs.,

N S SATYANARAYANA GUPTA
K S NAYAK, N S RACHANA
N C JANARDHAN, Advocates
Rachana Law Associates
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No:2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, BANGALORE – 560 070 Ph : 9731333880
Dt:13-05-2023

YOGAKSHEMAM LOANS LIMITED

3rd Floor, Ottappath Tower, Aswini Junction, Thiruvambady P. O., Thrissur, Kerala, 680022.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The borrowers, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments of pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 01.06.2023 from 10 a.m. onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice. List of Pledges:

BANHARGHATTA : 210123101752, 1801, 1803. **HONGASANDRA :** 210159100873, 902, 1158, 1164, 1210. **HOSA ROAD :** 210145100897, 898, 908, 921, 952, 973. **K G HALLI :** 210150100950, 952, 967. **KAMMANAHALLI :** 210118105387, 5402, 5415, 5422, 5431, 5598, 5618, 5905. **KATHRIKUPPA :** 210131102656, 2667, 2675, 2712, 2892. **WILSON GARDEN :** 210132102098, 2125, 2129, 210166100094. **CHIKKABANAVARA :** 210127103492, 3494, 3515, 3519, 3520, 3531, 3532, 3533, 3683. **DODDABOMMASANDRA :** 210133102606, 2628, 2634, 2670, 2671, 2674, 3148, 3169, 3248, 3249, 3250. **HESARAGHATTA :** 210165100617, 678, 969. **MATHIKERE :** 210114107033, 7062. **NELAMANGALA :** 210140102274, 2293, 2300, 2301, 2306, 2321, 2609, 2613, 2959, 2963. **PEENIYA :** 210134103340, 3342, 3373, 3728, 3753. **RT NAGAR :** 210111107295, 7299, 7304, 7312, 7314, 7318, 7499, 7548. **SUNKADAKATTE :** 210115106503, 6506, 6512, 6529, 6554, 6560, 6563, 6580, 6590, 6597, 6886, 6954, 7456, 7465. **T DASARAHALLI :** 210121103405, 3418, 3435, 3450, 3691. **YELAHANKA :** 210139101037. **VENKATAGIRIKOTA :** 210192100258. **BANGARIPET :** 210186100344. **CHINTAMANI :** 210146101210, 1285, 1681, 1779. **DODDABALLAPUR :** 210143101428, 1433, 1437, 1438, 1471, 1689, 1736, 1760, 1776. **GAURIBIDANUR :** 210144101837, 1860, 1861, 1864, 1881, 1883, 1891, 1892, 1905, 1917, 1924, 1930, 1935. **HOSAKOTE :** 210128106048, 6051, 6060, 6068, 6069, 6077, 6079, 6112, 6137, 6149, 6163, 6171, 6174, 6175, 6187, 6188, 6504, 6549. **KOLAR :** 210164101120, 1125, 1145, 1159, 1161, 1168, 1175, 1184, 1469, 1488, 1494, 1521. **MALUR :** 210135105030, 5031, 5089, 5093, 5104, 5105, 5147, 5149, 5157, 5159, 5165, 5166, 5169, 5189. **MULBAGAL :** 210167100892, 897, 924, 932, 933, 946, 957, 960, 967, 970, 983, 984, 991, 1236, 1318. **SREENIVASAPUR :** 210157101281, 1305, 1316, 1330, 1359, 1368, 1375, 1377, 1676, 1686, 1693, 1700. **VEMAGAL :** 210184100194, 197, 220, 221, 249, 258, 328. **BM ROAD RAMANAGARA :** 210180100523.**CHANNAPATNA :** 210141102026, 2032, 2040, 2047, 2049, 2051, 2078, 2085, 2118, 2119, 2469 . **CHANNARAYAPATNA :** 210161101025, 1035, 1052, 1081, 1087, 1091, 1383, 1521, 1762, 1837. **K M DODDI :** 210155100532, 565, 568, 573, 755, 763, 960, 962, 953, 1045. **KANAKAPURA :** 210185100141, 178, 357, 359, 412, 447, 448, 466. **KUNIGAL :** 210152100942, 946, 962, 964, 973, 1005, 1014, 1017, 1718. **MADDUR :** 210148100869, 883, 894, 922, 935. **MAGADI :** 210153100749, 768, 770, 780, 791, 798, 799, 805, 809. **MALAVALLY :** 210147101356, 1372, 1377, 1385, 1389, 1408. **MANDYA :** 210181100276, 284, 289, 302, 341. **RAMNAGAR :** 210142102096, 2106, 2125, 2170, 2182, 2191, 2195, 2202, 2206, 2622, 2977, 3003, 3037, 3040, 3069, 3076, 3099, 3100, 3229. **TIPTUR :** 210151100898, 903, 918, 923, 935, 942, 959, 974, 975

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 25,000/- or 2% of the reserve price whichever is less (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of DD (Drawn on Yogakshemam Loans Ltd.) one day prior to the auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card / PAN card. For more details please contact: 0487 2320102

Authorised Officer, Yogakshemam Loans Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions of my client, **Saddapalli Pallavi, W/o Banreddy Satish Kumar Reddy, D/o Saddepalli Manjunatha Reddy,** R/o Flat. No. 36/206-21, Sunrise Enclave Apartments, 4th Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Kadapa Town, Y.S.R. District, I hereby issue this caution notice to all general public as follows:

1. That the schedule mentioned properties originally belonged to Saddapalli Venkata Narasamma, W/o S. Balireddy, One Ashok Kumar filed false, frivolous suit under O.S. No. 173/2010 on the file of the Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge at Devanahalli, S. Ramana Reddy filed suit under O.S. No. 1758/2006 on the file of the Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge at Devanahalli and suit under O.S. No.786/2006 on the file of the Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge at Devanahalli, with all false, frivolous allegations.
2. My Client is Grand Daughter of **Saddapalli Venkata Narasamma** and the said Saddapalli Venkata Narasamma executed a valid, tenable, attested, registered **'WILL' Dated 07-05-2010** and bequeathing 62% (percent) of share to my client in the schedule mentioned properties. Saddapalli Venkata Narasamma died on 28-07-2021 by leaving the said 'WILL' as her last and final 'WILL' and by virtue of the said 'WILL', my client became the absolute owner for the share of 62%.
3. My client filed implead petitions in the above said suits. The schedule properties are joint family properties of my client and by virtue of the 'WILL' when her rights are being defeated invariably, she also filed a suit before the Hon'ble District and Sessions Judge, Bangalore Rural District at Bangalore and same was remitted back to the Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli in **V.O.S. No. 71/2023** for the relief of partition, separate possession and claiming her legitimate share in the schedule properties, the matter is pending for consideration.
4. She came to know that the persons, who kept an eye over the properties, have created false, frivolous, Fabricated documents and thereby trying to alienate, create encumbrances over the schedule properties. They are sincerely trying to encash by dragging the 3rd parties, strangers into the issue. It was brought to the Court notice in earlier occasions that the persons, who tried to knock away the properties, have created, forged, fabricated documents. My client thought it fit, an innocent 3rd party should not be dragged into costly litigation. Hence, she is constrained to issue this caution notice to all general public.

Therefore, my client hereby cautions to general public not to entertain anybody including her family members and not to enter into any transaction with anybody in respect of schedule mentioned properties. If anybody entertained anybody in respect of schedule properties, enters into any type of contract, agreement, transaction that won't bind my client's right, title, interest, possession and enjoyment whatsoever and such 3rd parties are not entitle to claim any equities and such transactions shall not bind my client. It is hereby further cautions that if anybody enters into such contract, they shall be prosecuted and made liable for all cost and consequences.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No.1 : Landed properties bearing Sy.No.2 measuring 02 acre 39 guntas, Sy.No.4 measuring 02 acre 10 guntas, Sy.No.5 measuring 01 acre 16 guntas, Sy.No.6 measuring 01 acre 25 guntas, Sy.No.7 measuring 02 acre 14 guntas, Sy.No.10 measuring 02 acre 18 guntas, Sy.No.11 measuring 01 acre 37 guntas, Sy.No.12 measuring 04 acre 27 guntas, Sy.No.13 measuring 04 acre 06 guntas, Sy.No.14 measuring 08 acre 09 guntas, Sy.No.15 measuring 02 acre 37 guntas, Sy.No.17 measuring 06 acre 12 guntas, Sy.No.18 measuring 05 acre 27 guntas, Sy.No.19 measuring 05 acre, Sy.No.20 measuring 06 acre 16 guntas, Sy.No.21 measuring 06 acre 09 guntas, Sy.No.23 measuring 05 acre 04 guntas, Sy.No.24 measuring 04 acre 32 guntas, Sy.No.25 measuring 04 acre 19 guntas, Sy.No.26 measuring 04 acre 22 guntas, Sy.No.27 measuring 11 acre 14 guntas, Sy.No.28 measuring 04 acre 22 guntas, Sy.No.29 measuring 04 acre 24 guntas, Sy.No.30 measuring 04 acre 21 guntas, Sy.No.21 measuring 04 acre 22 guntas, Sy.No.32 measuring 08 acre 32 guntas, Sy.No.33 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.34 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.35 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.36 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.37 measuring 11 acre 02 guntas, Sy.No.38 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.40 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.41 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.42 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.43 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.44 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.45 measuring 04 acre 21 guntas, Sy.No.46 measuring 04 acre 21 guntas, Sy.No.47 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.48 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.49 measuring 04 acre 24 guntas, Sy.No.50 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.51 measuring 04 acre 21 guntas, Sy.No.52 measuring 04 acre 21 guntas, Sy.No.53 measuring 04 acre 20 guntas, Sy.No.54 measuring

7.8% rise in consolidated net profit at ` 460.10 crore Avenue Supermarts, which owns and operates the retail chain DMart, reported on Saturday for Q4FY23

Gen-z: Dating apps swipe right

Domestic, international dating apps ring the cash register as youngsters look for love online

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

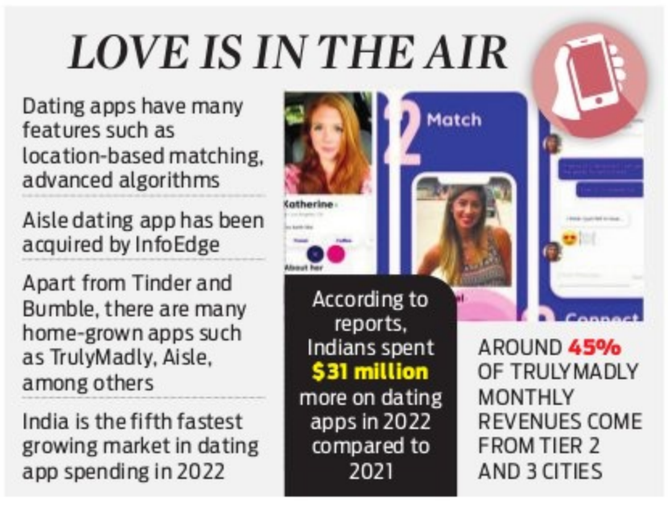
MEETING the right partner at a cafe or some place in this age of artificial intelligence (AI) is impossible and only apps can help you find the ideal match and also explore connections easier, says 25-year-old Namita Rao (name changed). She started using Bumble, an online dating app, during the second wave of COVID-19, and now she is living with the partner that she found on the app. After using 13 dating apps (including 4 Indian apps) over seven years, social media lead at a PR firm 31-year-old Gurudutt Biswal finally found his current girlfriend on Tinder.

The younger demographic is now 'swiping' to find matches and both homegrown and international dating apps are witnessing a huge spike in users. Many dating apps have seen their users surge during and also post pandemic.

Snehil Khanor, co-founder and CEO, TrulyMadly, said Covid-19 had no positive or negative impact on their downloads or revenues. "Despite the pandemic, we kept growing and it had no negative impact on us. In terms of users, we have been growing 100% year-on-year," he said.

The dating app has 13 million users, and of which 60% have come in the last three years. TrulyMadly targets only 26 years and above unlike other international apps that target the 18-23 years group. "We get users who have graduated from hook up apps and are looking for someone to get married," Khanor said.

Over 25,000 people have met on the app and got married. "The number could be actually more as these are the people who have reached out to us," he said. The dating app aims to touch 40 million user base in the next five years.



Making hay as hearts bloom

Almost all apps have subscription fees unlike a few years ago. "Dating apps have increased many features and also the subscription cost. For every one girl, there will be 8-9 guys. At least 90% of paying customers of dating apps are men. With better algorithms, one can find a better match on foreign apps compared to Indian apps. Foreign apps have better features and they are also able to fight spam/fake profiles much better," Biswal says.

Users also said that it is easier for women to find a match on dating apps than men, and many features are provided free of cost for them so as to increase the number of users. In the case of Bumble, only women can send the first message after a match.

"The percentage of female internet users is 27% and it is 25% for Facebook. We have 22% women users and this is because of our efforts in terms of branding, marketing and conducting various offline activities. We provide a lot of extra features that are free of cost for women. Men cannot see a woman's username or take a screenshot of women's profiles," says Khanor.

TrulyMadly subscription fee starts at Rs 699 a week and goes on till Rs 2,800, as the plan offers various features including 10x more visibility and unlimited likes. Talking about fake profiles that remain a challenge for dating apps, Khanor says such profiles are being weeded out using AI. They call the algorithm Chowk-AI-dar.

Bumble operates on a freemium model, with the availability of different subscription packages like Bumble Boost at Rs 149 per week and Bumble Premium starting at Rs 449 for a week. Aisle subscription starts from 1,000 per month.

According to Statista, in India in the online dating market, the number of users is expected to touch 28.41 million users by 2027. As per data.ai report, India is the fifth fastest growing market in dating app spending in 2022. Indians spent $31 million more on dating apps in 2022 compared to 2021.

In April 2021, TrulyMadly raised $2.1 million from Venture Catalysts, 9Unicorns, among others and again a year later it raised an undisclosed amount from We Founder Circle. So far, the dating app has raised $9.11 million, according to a Tracxn report. Many dating apps raised Series A rounds during the pandemic period. Another app FRND raised $6.5 million in December 2021, led by KRAFTON.

Surge in tier-2&3 cities

Samarpita Samaddar, India Communications Director, Bumble, said, "We have observed single Indians across India including tier 2 and tier 3 cities being more mindful of what they are looking for in a partner, women, in particular, are taking charge of their dating journeys."

Able Joseph, founder and CEO of Aisle, says that they never thought tier 2 and tier 3 audiences would sign up on dating apps. Its South Indian apps, which were launched more than a year ago, have been growing 100%. Aisle offers regional online dating platforms such as Arike in Malayalam, Anbe for the Tamil community, among others. Together with all apps, Aisle has 15 million users.

Khanor of TrulyMadly says tier-2 and 3 cities are growing faster than tier 1. Around 45% of our monthly revenues come from tier 2 and 3 cities and around 54% of our monthly users are from these cities.

To get more users, different apps are working on new features. Aisle is now working on a solution or an interesting challenge in which users can identify how interested their matches are in them, and the experiments are being done internally. CEOs of homegrown Indian dating apps say they have introduced more safety features using latest technologies such as AI.

However, users say while it is easy to get caught up in the excitement of swiping through endless profiles, it is essential to take the time to really get to know the person behind the profile before jumping into a relationship.

NEWSCOPE

AS VALUATIONS CRASH, HARSH REALITY 2.0 HITS TECH START-UPS

GURBIR SINGH

ONCE the darling of investors, tech start-ups are facing harsh reality 2.0. Valuations are slumping and some people are getting wise and beginning to question their business models. A clutch of serious valuation corrections have set off an avalanche.

Most recently, US-based investment management company Vanguard has slashed the valuation of Ola's parent company, ANI technologies, by 35% to $4.8 billion. This is bad timing for Ola as it has come at a time when the company is planning to go public next year.Other unicorns have taken a beating too. BlackRock has halved edtech giant Byju's valuation to $11.5 billion from $22 billion, and SoftBank has downsised Oyo to $2.7 billion last September.

Another US investment company, Invesco, has slashed the valuation of app-based food delivery platform Swiggyby 33% to $5.5 billion from the earlier level of $8.2 billion. It was Invesco which in January 2022 led a $700 million funding round for Swiggy, which gave the company a humungous valuation of $10.7 billion.

The impact of these meltdowns predictably is going upstream. Big investors who had put a lot of eggs in the tech start-up basket are now facing the heat. SoftBank Group Corp, a big investor in Oyo, Paytm and Delhivery, reported a record loss of $32 billion, across its Vision Fund I and II, up from $18.9 billion it lost the previous year.

It is also telling SoftBank made investments of only $3.14 billion through its two primary funding vehicles in 2022-23, a huge markdown from $44.26 billion it invested in the earlier year.

Bumpy ride

Its been a yo-yo ride for tech start-ups. As Covid conditions eased, Indian start-ups raised an eye-popping $42 billion over nearly 1,600 deals in 2021. The year also added 42 unicorns (those with valuations of $ 1 billion or more).

But the beginning of 2022 saw the first meltdowns; and signals that these start-ups were hugely overvalued. Paytm, which had gone public in November 2021, fell sharply after listing but within months its shares had eroded by more than 50% compared to its 52-week high of ₹1,961 on November 18. Its consolidated losses for the year ending March 31, 2022, was ₹2,396 crore.

Food delivery app Zomato, which listed in July 2021, plummeted over 40% after it hit a high of ₹169.10 on November 16. Other start-ups that went public in 2021 too fell sharply in January last year as investors had second thoughts and their performance was below expectation. Those that tumbled on the stock market included CarTrade Tech that fell 55% from its November 2021 high and insurance platform Policy Bazaar by 47%.

Faulty business model

The lower valuations and crisis hitting Indian tech start-ups in the second round now is partly a result of global headwinds. Continuous recessionary pressures over the past 6-9 months has seen even Big Tech firms including Microsoft, Meta, and Google logging slower business and resorting to mass retrenchments.

Microsoft, that retrenched 10,000 employees a while ago has just said it will not raise pay for all full-time workers this year to generate "enough yield" to shift toward AI. Cognizant, preparing for a few painful quarters ahead, is all set to shed 3,500 employees.

But looking beyond the challenges of macroeconomics, many investors and promoters of Indian startups have got their story wrong, and bitten off more than they can chew. Unlimited growth in all directions has damaged their core businesses and has sometimes led to an implosion.

Sample Ola. Its growth-at-any-cost model has taken a heavy toll. It was first forced to shut its cab infotainment business last November, and then its used-car outfit, Ola Cars, and then its food delivery business. One by one the various platforms – Ola Café, Food Panda, and Ola Foods have all shut forcing out nearly a thousand employees.

The edtech sector, projected at one time to be $30 billion opportunity by the end of the decade, was overvalued on estimates of online learning during the pandemic. The reopening of schools and physical coaching centers should have triggered a big course correction, but the Byju's, Unacademys,Vedantus and upGrades plodded on as if nothing had changed.

Funding in edtech start-ups plummeted from $5.82 billion in 2021 to $2 billion in 2022 till August 15, according to our data tracking platform Fintrackr.These edtechs also posted heavy losses during FY21. Eruditus registered a ₹1,934 crore loss, followed by Unacademy's ₹1,537 crore loss in FY21. Vedantu registered a ₹604 crore loss during the same period. Byju's, which is yet to file its FY21 numbers, saw a ₹262 crore loss in FY20.

The new, revised valuations is a shake-up that has come not a day too soon. Looking at the performance in the sector, further erosion in valuations are in the offing. It is good we are moving to more realistic business plans; but it also flags how promoters and investors' splurged billions of dollars of public money because of faulty due diligence.

SOURAV ROY

EXPRESS READ

Govt sets up centre for corporate exit

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday said it has set up the Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to ensure timely and process-bound deregistering of companies from records as well as provide more meaningful data to the stakeholders. The centre has been set up by the corporate affairs ministry. *PTI*

Auditor of Zomato subsidiary resigns

NEW DELHI: Zomato on Saturday said the auditor of its subsidiary Zomato Hyperpure, BB & Associates has resigned. In a regulatory filing, Zomato said statutory auditor of its material subsidiary resigned with effect from May 13, 2023. BB & Associates was re-appointed as the statutory auditors of Zomato Hyperpure. *PTI*

RIL arm completes acquisition of US hotel chain

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES (RIL) on Saturday said that its subsidiary, Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings (RIIHL), has completed acquisition of Columbus Centre Corporation, which owns 73.37% stake in Mandarin Oriental New York, a luxury hotel chain in New York City.

In January this year, the wholly owned subsidiary of RIL had entered into an agreement to acquire Columbus Centre Corporation for ₹735 crore.

"As per the agreement, such an acquisition could be done by RIIHL or any other subsidiary of RIL," said RIL in an exchange filing on Saturday. "We wish to inform you that, post receipt of approval from regulatory authorities, Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RIL, has on May 12, 2023, completed the transaction," it added.

Two Adani cos to raise ₹21K cr via QIP

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Two Adani Group companies are seeking to raise ₹21,000 crore through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route.

While Adani Enterprises said it will raise ₹12,500 crore, Adani Transmission has plans to raise ₹8,500 crore.

This fundraising exercise comes after the stinging report of US-based Hindenburg Research had forced the Group's flagship Adani Enterprises to scrap its ₹20,000 follow-on public offer.

The fresh fundraising exercise also comes as the port-to-power conglomerate is in the middle of an on-going investigation by the Supreme Court-appointed panel and market regulator Sebi.

The board of directors of the two companies in two separate meetings held on Saturday approved the fundraising by way of issuance of shares and/or other eligible securities by way of QIP or other permissible mode. The two companies would now seek approval of the shareholders for the aforesaid issuance and ancillary actions by way of a postal ballot process. This will be an easy process given promoter shareholding in Adani companies is very high.

Adani Green Energy, which was also scheduled to announce fundraising plans on Saturday, after a board meeting, has rescheduled it to May 24.

The fundraising is seen as part of the Group's effort to ease concerns related to its ability to service its humongous debt and continue with its aggressive expansion plans.

The Group, whose net debt stood at ₹1.96 lakh crore, as of December-end 2022 is reported to have tamp down its capital expenditure (capex) roadmap. Last week, Adani Enterprise revised its capex guidance downwards for FY24 to $3.8 billion from earlier projection of $5.3 billion.

If successful, this will be the second big fundraising by the billionaire Gautam Adani Group after allegations of stock price manipulation and other fraudulent activities by Hindenburg had wiped out half of the Group's market value.

Earlier in March, US-based boutique investment firm GQG Partners had bought stakes worth ₹15,446 crore in three Adani Group Companies through block deals. This investment had brought much-needed relief as it halted the free fall of Group shares after they crashed up to 80%.

SCO adopts India's proposal on developing digital infrastructure

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) agreed to support adoption of digital public infrastructure (DPI) developed by India such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface, DigiLocker and CoWin, said information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

In a meeting on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), chaired by India, Vaishnaw proposed to the SCO member states to support adoption of India's digital public infrastructure.

The minister also emphasised that India stack being interoperable and open application programming interface (API) based, it is enabling digital inclusion, innovation and social empowerment.

The minister also urged them to assess, evaluate and adopt India Stack and benefit from this DPI. "DPI is very important from the perspective of having completion, making sure that technology is democratised and making sure of digitally inclusive growth among member states," said the minister.

He also said there was also a need for interoperability between different systems being developed by the member states and the body recognised the need for setting up an organisation for setting common standards for interoperability of digital systems among member states.

This year, India will chair the Annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit in December. "Indian ethos is based on the firm belief that the entire humanity is one family. I would urge all fellow members of SCO to assess, evaluate and adopt India Stack and benefit from this digital public infrastructure," said Vaishnaw.

The minister also shared with the SCO member states about India's investment of $3 billion to take mobile connectivity to villages in remote areas and $5 billion to bring broadband connectivity to all 250 thousand Gram Panchayats.

'India stack enables digital inclusion'

IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw proposed to the SCO member states to support adoption of India's digital public infrastructure. The minister also emphasised that India stack being interoperable and open application programming interface (API) based, it is enabling digital inclusion, innovation and social empowerment. He urged them to assess, evaluate and adopt India Stack and benefit from this DPI

New PPA deputy Chairman Nilabhra Dasgupta assumes charge

Shri Nilabhra Dasgupta assumed the charge of Deputy Chairman, PPA today. He is an Indian Revenue Service Officer of 2008 batch. He has a Masters in Linguistics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi and was pursuing a Direct PhD when he cracked the prestigious Civil Services examination in his very first attempt. He also has an LLB degree from Gujarat University and has completed his LLM. After assuming the office as Dy. Chairman, PPA, he said that his priority will be taking PPA to greater heights in coming years and also to create and maintain a congenial atmosphere in the local Port Community, so that it will fuel further growth and development of the Port. During his more than 13 years of service, he has handled multiple large and sensitive positions in tax-policy administration and management. He possesses work experience in a diverse portfolio of assignments covering the areas of Administration, Enforcement, Vigilance, Infrastructure, Corporate and International Taxation. He has a deep experience of working in a highly unionized set-up with an ability to work in close coordination with the Unions while ensuring that all the key result areas and organizational objectives are achieved.

Business & Beyond

Shantanu Thakur flags off MV-ITT LION (V-273) from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

At a ceremony held today Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Shantanu Thakur flagged off MV-ITT LION (V-273) from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata as the inaugural shipment to operationalise the Sittwe Port in Rakhine State of Myanmar. The Port has been built under a grant assistance from the Government of India as part of Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP). The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), as a project Development Consultant for the implementation of Port and IWT components of the work, has successfully completed the work. MV-ITT LION (V-273) carrying 20,000 bags containing 1,000 metric tonnes of cement will reach Sittwe Port on May 9, 2023.

SER's remarkable freight loading performance continues

South Eastern Railway has loaded 16.64 Million Tonnes of originating freight in the month of April, 2023 as against 16.18 Million Tonnes loaded in April 2022, registering a growth of 2.90%. South Eastern Railway achieved record freight loading of 202.60 Million tonnes in the last financial year (i.e.2022-23) and this increasing trend has also continued in the first month of the current fiscal. There has also been an increase of 4.93% in originating freight revenue in April, 2023 in comparison to April, 2022. In April, 2023, the revenue generation from originating freight loading has been Rs 1467.45 crore as against Rs.1398.53 crore in the same month of the previous year.

Rhythm breaks long-standing WR but misses medal

Indian shooter Rhythm Sangwan smashed a 29-year-old world record in the qualification round and later missed out on a medal as she finished eighth in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Baku. Rhythm shot 595 to top the 25m pistol qualification, obliterating the world record (594) first created by Diana Iorgova of Bulgaria back in 1994 in Milan.

The evolution of T20 batting

With the changing dynamic of the formats, teams are starting to prefer several short cameos than a batter playing through the innings

GOMESH S @ Chennai

WHAT is a good T20 knock? Is it a 10-ball 20 or a 3-ball 10 or a 38-ball 50 or a 40-ball 60? Over the years, the definition of the perfect T20 knock has changed so much that there is a need to examine the role of not just anchors but batters who consistently score 40-ball 50s. For generations, batters have been taught to play the long innings, stay till the end. But that is changing.

In fact, teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL) have already started doing it. With the impact player rule coming into play, the emphasis on a batter not holding himself back has been paramount for the franchises. Earlier in the season, Delhi Capitals head coach Ricky Ponting had spoken about the role of an anchor in this format. Interestingly, he believes that an powerful batter can modify the game to adapt into an anchor but the reverse is hard. "The only one I can think of this year is (Ajinkya) Rahane," he had said before adding, "It's a day-by-day thing, but I think the actual role of someone opening or batting at number three and trying to bat through the entire innings, I think that's dying."

Ponting does have a point. Among the top 15 run-scorers this season, only two batters have a strike rate less than 140 — Devon Conway (136.8) and Virat Kohli (133.7). While Kohli is one of the top anchors in the country, he has been complimented by Faf du Plessis (157.8) and Glenn Maxwell (186.4) this season. Similarly, KL Rahul (113.2) and Hardik Pandya (130.6), too, have played a role similar to that of Kohli, thanks to their team makeup. Has it worked out? Not quite.

SURYAKUMAR YADAV

Sunday Special

74 (56), 68 (61), 65 (55), 61 (44) — these are some of the knocks where the respective teams have ended up on the losing side. Even former South Africa captain Graeme Smith agrees with Ponting's sentiment.

"The only thing I would add is that conditions need to be taken into account. In India, there is no place for anchor batters... as soon as the field is spread and spinners come into play, people like SKY (Suryakumar Yadav) have changed the game and they are so dynamic that they score all over the ground," said Smith an expert with Jio Cinema.

It has come to a stage where teams are starting to prefer batters who play short cameos and keep the momentum going for the next batter who comes in. Earlier, Punjab Kings chased down 201 against Chennai Super Kings where no batter faced more than 24 balls. Against Delhi, the most balls faced by a Chennai batter was 20 and their head coach Stephen Fleming said it was by design and not luck. "We have learned. We took a while and we still are learning how to drive this car. It's a bit different. The game is changing. You have to get more runs with the extra player... teams now have a lot more confidence and they know that they've got the batting to come. So you see players really express themselves. You'd love (for the batter) to go longer but the risks they're taking is quite high, so you are going to get a bigger turnover of batters," he said after the win against Delhi.

Now, cricket is a game that has more external variables and factors coming into play than many other sports. And often, the approach by a team or a batter is pinned down to the conditions, pitches, bowling attacks, and the situation. There have been occasions where the batters have taken time to settle in before going big in the deep. It is a proven template. Even on Friday when Mumbai Indians' Suryakumar was batting against Gujarat Titans, at one point he was batting on 22 off 17 balls (129.4 SR), and then 47 from 31 (151.6) before taking it up to 103 n.o from 49 balls (210.2). It is the kind of acceleration that one could dream of. Kohli, too, has done that from time to time for India in T20Is. However, it is not an everyday occurrence.

Every once in a while, batters come out and do something that makes your jaw drop and go 'wow'. Friday was one such day and Yadav knows it too. If you need any proof, all you have to do is look at his approach since the start of 2022. In the 13 IPL games where Surya has faced 20 balls or more, he has a cumulative average strike rate of 165 in the first 20 balls. And that is the kind of T20 cameos that teams are looking for rather than the 40-ball 60 balls.

As one famous Tamil movie dialogue goes, it's all about "*Chinna kallu, bedha labbam* (small stone, big profit)".

WILL DUBE PLAY?

After missing the last game due to injury. ***Shivam Dube*** was seen having a long net session ahead of the clash. The designated spin-hitter's availability will be crucial in CSK's approach against the spin heavy Kolkata outfit, especially in the middle-overs.

SUPER KINGS TAKE ON THE KNIGHTS

In their last home game of the league stage, Chennai Super Kings face Kolkata Knight Riders...

Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders, 7.30 PM, Chennai

MOEEN, THE SPINNER IN PLAY

With the pitch the same as that of the game against Mumbai Indians, adding the fact that KKR have quite a few left-handers in their batting line-up, one could expect MS Dhoni to bring on ***Moeen Ali*** early in the powerplay. Although seldom used, whenever he has come on, Moeen has made an impact, especially in Chennai.

Royal Duel

Rajasthan Royals face Royal Challengers in Jaipur. A look...

Every win matters

After three losses, Royals won the game against Kolkata Knight Riders and would want to keep the momentum going, for every result from hereon is crucial for the play-offs. It is no different for RCB who will be looking to come back after two defeats. Who wins this duel will have a significant impact on how the table looks.

Siraj vs Jaiswal

Mohammed Siraj has a good record in the powerplay, barring the last couple of games. Even more so against left-handers in the first six overs. On the other hand, Yashasvi Jaiswal has been the go-to enforcer for RR at the top. The contest between the two will play a crucial role how the rest of the innings go.

Rajasthan Royals vs Royal Challengers Bangalore, 3.30 PM, Jaipur

VARUN LOOKS FORWARD TO HAPPY HOMECOMING

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

THE MA Chidambaram Stadium holds a special place in the hearts of cricketers and fans from the state of Tamil Nadu. The warmth and affection of the home crowd propel the players to give their best. And Kolkata Knight Riders' Varun Chakravarthy is no different as he eagerly waits for his homecoming against Chennai Super Kings at Chepauk on Sunday.

"I will be playing at Chepauk after a long time," the spinner tells this daily. "My family will be coming to watch the game, so it is all the more special," he added. Varun has had a season to remember with 17 wickets in 12 games so far for KKR. While he has been the most valuable bowler for KKR, Varun insists that he has just kept things simple and stuck to basics.

"I didn't expect anything when the tournament began. I was never worried about being successful or failing, but all I wanted to do is what I learnt (stick to basics). My skipper Nitish Rana backed me well, so I guess I was among wickets," he said.

As the tournament progressed one could see Varun's accuracy improved with the ball. "There was a lot of effort taken to be more accurate, the efforts were bowling to my strength and that is bowling wicket to wicket. Once you start bowling well and get your rhythm, your confidence improves, and that in turn helps you handle pressure," he said. The Chepauk pitch, in general, aids spinners, and this season has been no different. "Yes we know the wickets in Chennai aid spinners. I hope it suits our bowling and it will be a good match. Both Sunil (Narine) and I are different types of bowlers. Our roles are similar and hope the surface aids us," he said.

I didn't expect anything when the tournament began. I was never worried about being successful or failing, but all I wanted to do is what I learnt (stick to basics).

Varun Chakravarthy

In the absence of Shreyas Iyer, Nitish Rana has been leading the side well and helping players to give their best. "Rana has been leading well. He empowers us, he is always there for us and communicates well. Rana has been captain for Delhi, also in the absence of Shreyas he has been leading very well," said Varun.

On working with Chandrakant Pandit, who is one of the most successful coaches in the domestic circuit, Varun said that his tactical nous has helped the team devise the plans. "Pandit is very good at managing the team. He keeps us motivated and makes sure we play as a unit. His inputs and pep talks help us give our best," said Varun.

Andre Russell will be the key for KKR's success against CSK. If we look at the pattern in matches at Chepauk, the choice of wickets has led to one side of the boundary being short. "Hopefully he (Russell) does well, that's how all the pitches have been in Kolkata one side have been short and another is very normal so that how it been in all IPL. So it is a challenge for a bowler, definitely that will be a challenge for all of us," said Chakravarthy.

He insists that his team will have to start afresh and not brood over the loss in the previous game against Rajasthan Royals. "There is no time to waste to keep thinking about the last match. After losing a few matches, Rajasthan came back stronger, that's how life has to be. We are aware that CSK batters are good against spin and we will play accordingly," he signed off.

Wolverhampton Wanderers' Max Kilman (R) challenges Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes during their Premier League clash on Saturday | AFP

Vital points for United; Southampton relegated

AFP @ Manchester

MANCHESTER United edged closer to a return to the Champions League next season with a 2-0 win over Wolves as Southampton were relegated from the Premier League on Saturday.

Newcastle remain ahead of United on goal difference in third after being held 2-2 in a pulsating game as Sam Allardyce picked up his first point at Leeds manager.

United had won just two of their previous eight games from open play in all competitions. But they shrugged off the absence of Marcus Rashford due to injury for a vital three points.

Wolves were welcome visitors at Old Trafford as the Premier League's lowest scorers rarely troubled the under-fire David de Gea.

Scoring goals has also been a problem for the Red Devils of late but Antony squared for Anthony Martial to slam home on 32 minutes. Alejandro Garnacho then came off the bench to secure the points deep into stoppage time.

Newcastle and Manchester United are now four points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool with three games to go.

There was far more action at Elland Road where Leeds got a point but did not do enough to move out of the relegation zone. Luke Ayling gave Allardyce's men a flying start, but they shot themselves in the foot three times.

Firstly, Patrick Bamford saw a penalty saved by Nick Pope. Three minutes later, Newcastle did level from the spot through Callum Wilson after Alexander Isak was fouled. Wilson converted a second penalty midway through the second half when Junior Firpo handled inside his own box. Rasmus Kristensen's deflected effort brought Leeds level again 11 minutes from time.

Southampton's 11-year stay in the Premier League, though, is over after a meek 2-0 home defeat by Fulham summed up the Saints' season.

Results: Leeds **2-2** Newcastle; Villa **2-1** Tottenham; Chelsea **2-2** Nottingham Forest; Palace **2-0** Bournemouth; M United **2-0** Wolves; Southampton **0-2** Fulham.

LSG post win to stay in play-off hunt

AGENCIES @ Hyderabad

NICHOLAS Pooran justified his ₹16 crore billing, pulling off what looked like a difficult chase on a tacky track as Lucknow Super Giants were back in play-off hunt with a seven-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match on Saturday. A target of 183 was certainly not an easy proposition on a track that got slower as the match progressed.

However, Pooran (44 not out off 13 balls), with assistance from domestic bulwark Prerak Mankad (64 not out, 45 balls) and Marcus Stoinis (40 off 25 balls), helped LSG get past the target with four balls to spare.

LSG now have 13 points from 12 games and are now in fourth spot behind Gujarat Titans (16 points), CSK (15 points) and Mumbai Indians (14 points). However, they will have to win their next two games to have an assured berth in the last four stage. As far as SRH are concerned, another tournament of non-performance is coming to an end with a below-par show.

CSK's Shivam Dube during a nets session in Chennai on Saturday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Till the 15th over, SRH controlled the proceedings as LSG crawled to 114 for 2, needing 68 more from six overs. However, Aiden Markram's decision to give an extra over to part-time left-arm spinner Abhishek Sharma, who was walloped for five sixes in the 16th over, proved costly. Stoinis thumped him for two maximums before being holed out at deep extra cover boundary. But Pooran came in and hit two 100m-plus sixes and one straight to completely change the equation.

Credit should be given to Saurashtra's Mankad, who struggled to get going during the middle overs. But a pep-talk from mentor Gautam Gambhir during strategic time-out saw a sea-change in his approach as he showed more intent, hitting a straight six off T Natarajan.

Earlier, Krunal Pandya produced a couple of back-to-back high quality deliveries before Heinrich Klaasen and Abdul Samad took Sunrisers Hyderabad to a competitive 182 for 6 after opting to bat first.

Brief scores: SRH 182/6 in 20 ovs (Klaasen 47; Pandya 2/24) **lost to** LSG 185/3 in 19.2 ovs (Mankad 64 n.o, Pooran 44 n.o, Stoinis 40).

Prabhsimran ton hands easy win for Punjab

ENS @ Chennai

PUNJAB Kings opener Prabhsimran Singh become the latest centurion in the ongoing IPL season as he scored 103 runs from 65 balls in the clash against Delhi Capitals on Saturday evening in Delhi. Thanks to his ton, Punjab Kings recovered from 45/3 to 167/7 in 20 ovs.

The century helped Punjab comfortably overcome Delhi by 31 runs. With the win, Punjab stay alive while Delhi can no longer harbour intentions of making the play-offs.

It was an one man show at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. One only have to look at the scorecard to see the kind of impact Singh had on Saturday. After his 103, the second highest score in the line-up is 20 from Sam Curran followed by 11 from seven balls by Sikandar Raza.

Prabhsimran Singh celebrates after reaching century against Delhi Capitals on Saturday | SPORTZPICS

The opener held one end together even as wickets kept falling at the other end. He put his foot down and hit ten fours and six sixes, playing a crucial role in taking Punjab Kings to a respectable total.

Brief scores: PBKS 167/7 in 20 ovs (Prabhsimran 103, Curran 20) vs Delhi Capitals 136/8 in 20 ovs (Warner 54, Brar 4/30, Ellis 2/26, Chahar 2/16).

WRESTLING

Hand all papers, info to ad-hoc panel: IOA to WFI

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has asked the secretary general of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to hand over the official documents including financial instruments to its ad-hoc panel, making it clear the outgoing office bearers shall have no role in the running of the federation.

The WFI said it has no issues in obeying the IOA order since they were already co-operating with the authorities.

The IOA had formed an ad-hoc committee to manage the day-to-day affairs of the WFI and also conduct due elections. The ad-hoc committee was formed by the IOA at the behest of the sports ministry after several top wrestlers returned to the protest site at Jantar Mantar here last month, demanding the arrest of WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly sexually harassing women grapplers.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday | SHEKHAR YADAV

The IOA issued issued a letter on Friday saying that all administrative, financial and regulatory roles will now be performed by the ad-hoc committee. "In pursuance of the above (order of the IOA dated May 12, 2023), it is hereby clarified that the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the IOA for the discipline of Wrestling shall carry out all the duties and responsibilities of the National Sports Federation (WFI) as enunciated in the Sports Code.

"With the Ad hoc Committee being in existence, the outgoing office bearers of the WFI shall have no role with respect to the exercise of any function of the NSF for discipline of Wrestling and shall not perform any administrative, financial, regulatory or any other role," said the IOA letter, which has also been marked to the ministry and the WFI secretary general. It said that outgoing office bearers should immediately hand over all necessary documents, including website login and participation details of Indian wrestlers, among others to the ad-hoc committee.

WFI secretary general VN Prasood said they have no issues in sharing all the relevant documents with the IOA panel.

EXPRESS READ

Seeking elusive medal at Sudirman Cup

SUZHOU (CHINA): Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy will look to hit top gear as the Indian badminton team begins its campaign at the BWF Sudirman Cup with a clash against Chinese Taipei here on Sunday. India have always depended on their singles stars to deliver at the team championships and a lot will again ride on them.

Celebrations to mark 1000th MotoGP race

NEW DELHI: Super bikes, flashy skills and burnouts were at display when close to 1000 riders gathered here on Saturday to celebrate the 1000th MotoGP race landmark. This weekend's French Grand Prix marks the significant achievement in the history of MotoGP since the first feast of speed was held 74 years ago.

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Expression of Interest for Consolidation of Cargo on NW-10, NW- 28, NW-85 & NW-91 in the State of Maharashtra on PPP Mode

Online Expression of Interest from reputed business houses/clearance agents for "Expression of Interest for Consolidation of Cargo on NW-10 , NW- 28, NW-85 & NW-91 in the State of Maharashtra on PPP mode". Date of download of Tenders is **11.05.2023 to 10.06.2023**. Last date of online submission of e-tender: **10.06.2023 @1800 hrs**. Date of opening: **12.06.2023 at 1030 hrs**. **Detailed eligibility criteria and tender document along with Instruction to the Bidders can be seen at IWAI's website i.e. www.iwai.nic.in** and **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Director (MM)

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Ph.D. Admission - JULY 2023

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to **Ph.D. (Full-Time / Part-Time)** Program for the year **2023-2024 (JULY 2023 Session)**. Candidates may visit the institute website **https://www.nitt.edu** or **https://admission.nitt.edu/phdjul23/** for further details.

The application portal will be closed on **31st May 2023 (5:00 p.m.).**

THE REGISTRAR

For details, visit https://www.nitt.edu/ or https://admission.nitt.edu/phdjul23/

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION

E - TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/15/2023 Dated:10.05.2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of works and Details
(1)	(2)
Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 (Item No. 1 to 15)	
1	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-I"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / East / Palakkad - from KM 510/07 Walayar (excl) KM 535/00-Palakkad (incl)-KM 53/07 Palakkad Town (incl) KM 58/13 Palakkad (incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **115.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **2,07,500/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
2	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-II"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / West / Palakkad - from KM 535/00 - Palakkad Jn - (Excl) to Km. 566/54 Ottapalam (incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **90.75;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,81,500/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
3	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-III"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / West / Podanur - from KM 490/90 Podanur (excl) to KM 510/07 Walayar (incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **38.50;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **77,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
4	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "B-I"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Kollengode - from KM 0.00 Pollachi (incl) to KM 53.07 Palakkad Town (Excl) from Km 120/07 Pollachi (Incl) to KM 143/50 Kinattukadavu (Incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **38.50;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **77,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
5	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Shoranur - from KM 566/54 Ottapalam (Excl) to KM 609/21- Kuttipuram (incl), Shoranur - Ernakulam line Km 0.00-1/94 Ernakulam Line - 0.000 Shoranur - Nilambur Line - 0.80 Nilambur Road line. Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **120.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **2,10,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
6	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-I"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Tirur - from KM 609.21 Kuttipuram (Excl) to KM 653.90 Feroke (Excl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **76.53;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,53,100/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
7	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-II" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Angadipuram - from KM 0.80 Shoranur Jn. (Excl) to KM 66/0 Nilambur Road (Incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **42.35;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **84.700/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
8	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "D" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Calicut - from KM 653.90 Feroke (Incl) to KM 688/30 Quilandi (Excl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **92.40;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,84,800/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
9	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "D I" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Quilandi - from KM 688/30 Quilandi (Incl) to KM 735/070 Thalassery (Incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **87.12;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,74,200/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
10	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "E" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Canannore - from KM 735/070 Thalassery (Excl) to KM 776/50 Payyangadi (Incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **92.40;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,84,800/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
11	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "H" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Payyannur - from KM 776.50 Payangadi (Excl) to km 821.60 Kanhangad (Incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **50.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,00,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
12	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "F" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Kasargode - from KM 821/60 Kanhangad (Excl) to KM 871/30 Manjeswar (incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **33.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **66,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
13	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "G" - Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Mangalore - from KM 871/30 - Manjeswar (excl) to KM 887/50 Mangalore Jn (Incl) and from KM 0.000 - Mangalore Jn (incl) to KM 24.50 Panambur (Incl). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **85.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,70,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
14	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-IV" - Senior Section Engineer/Bridge/Palakkad (Podanur - Ferok, Palakkad - Pollachi, Pollachi-Podanur, Shoranur - Shoranur 'B' cabin & Shoranur - Nilambur section). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **50.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,00,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
15	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "E-I" - Senior Section Engineer/Bridge/Kannur (Ferok - Mangalore & Mangalore - Panambur section). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **80.00;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **1,60,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twelve**
16	Divisional Engineer / East / Palakkad section: Podanur - Shoranur, Shoranur-Calicut CTR(P) 23.293 km (22.293km by SQRS and 1.000 Km by manual including deep screening and destressing of LWR between km 517.200-519.650, km 530.200-532.950 &532.950-533.230 (on A line), km 533.800-534.600 (on B line), km 583.600-583.730 (Upline), km 547.600-548.950 & km 551.000-566.533 (on Dn line). Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **561.48;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **4,30,700/-**; Completion period in Months: **Twenty Four**
17	Infrastructure for setting up of Maintenance facilities for Vande Bharat trains at MAQ. Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **31.86;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **63,700/-**; Completion period in Months: **Four**
18	Mangalore - Rebuilding of type-II staff Qtrs. 24 units in lieu of type-I Qtrs No.95 A-D, 100-A-D, 101 A-D and MH-18 A-D, MH 19-A-B, MH-20-A-C and MH-25-A-C-Construction of type-II Qtrs I block of 12 units at Mangalore junction. Approximate Cash value (₹ in Lakhs): **206.03;** Bid Security Amount (₹): ₹ **2,53,000/-**; Completion period in Months: **Eight**

Sl.No.	**1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 16**	Tender closing date on **02.06.2023** at **15.00 hrs.**
Sl.No.	**17**	Tender closing date on **12.06.2023** at **15.00 hrs.**
Sl.No.	**14, 15, & 18**	Tender closing date on **21.06.2023** at **15.00 hrs.**

1. All the contracts on Works / goods / services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors / Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.07.2017 onwards.

For complete details of the above tenders please visit Website **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

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Public Notice

For disposal of Medical Records from 01st Jan 2018 to 31st Dec 2018

Vasavi Hospitals
Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078

With reference to above advertisement will be given on **14-05-2023**. we are hereby bringing to your notice that, the Medical Records for the period **01st Jan 2018 to 31st Dec 2018**. of patients in Vasavi Hospitals, Bangalore will be disposed after **14th June 2023**. If any patient required their records, need to be contact Mr Ravikumar G. MRD Manager on before 1st June 2023. (**080 71500557**).

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that our client(s) intend(s) to purchase the below-mentioned Schedule Property from **Sri. K. Srinivasa** and **Sri. K. Govardhan,** both being sons of **Late Sri. K. S. Krishnasa,** who claim to be the absolute owners of the same, having acquired 67% undivided share therein under a **Registered Partition Deed dated 17-10-1984** which was registered on **20-10-1984** as **Document No.2211/1984-85** in **Volume No.3148** of **Book-I** at **Pages 1 to 11** in the Office of the **Sub-registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore** and having acquired 33% undivided share therein under a **Registered Will** dated **21-12-1988** which was executed by **Sri. K. S. Krishnasa** and registered as **Document No.250/1988-89** in **Volume No.114 of Book-III at Pages 190 to 193** in the Office of the **Sub-registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore.**

Any person(s) / bank(s) / institution(s) objecting to the proposed sale or asserting any manner of lawful right, title, interest or share over the Schedule Property or part thereof is/are required to lodge their objections/claims preferably with photo-copies of documents based on which they object to the said sale or stake their claim, by registered post so as to reach at the below-mentioned address within 7 (seven) days from the date of this publication, failing which our client(s) shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims of any nature thereon, and all claims even if existing, shall be deemed to have been waived off / abandoned.

Any objections / claims received after the said period, or personal representation(s) or communication by any other mode, shall not be considered / entertained under any circumstances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.4, PID No.28-187-4 [formerly bearing Municipal Nos.119, later No.32] situated at Old Tharagupet 5th Cross Road, Santhusapet, Bangalore in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.28 (Chickpet Ward), measuring:

EAST to WEST : 44 feet NORTH to SOUTH: 26 feet 9 inches

Being located in the old pete area of Bangalore City, the said property is of an irregular shape, totally measures about **1183.60 sq. feet** and is bounded on the:

EAST by : Government Road;
WEST by : Property belonging to Sri. Sham Iyengar presently belonging to Sri. K.N. Chandrashekhar Swamy;
NORTH by : Property belonging to Sri. Magaji Hanumanthasa;
SOUTH by : Property belonging to Sri. Dodda Krishnasa.

ABHAY KUMAR P. JAIN & V. RAMKUMAR, Advocates
LexJuris, No. 202, PANCHARATHNA RACE VIEW APARTMENTS, No. 15/1, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560 009

QuoteExpress **THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED** › MARK TWAIN

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OPEN E-TENDER

(Tender Notice No. KR-PD-JK-EL-T-1-2023 Dated: 03/05/2023).

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites **"Supply, Installation, Commissioning and AMC for 05 years of dynamic illumination/façade lighting system of the main Chenab Bridge, Anji Bridge and Five nos. Railway Stations i.e. Reasi, Bakkal, Dugga, Sawalakote and Sangaldan on Katra-Dharam section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (J&K)."**
Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 24.03 Cr. **Completion period of contract:** 05 months. **Submission of Tender:** 05/06/2023 up to 15:00 hrs. **Opening of Tender:** 05/06/2023 @ 15:30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 13,51,800/- to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal only.
For further details and updates please visit **https://www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any would be hosted on the above website only.

XPRESS FOCUS SMD INITIATIVE

'Helping Hand Programme' Launched to Benefit Women Weavers

Pavithra Halkatti, Trustee of M. Rajsekara Murthy Foundation announced the "Helping Hand Programme" for women weavers who are single mothers and in need, on the occasion of International Mother's Day.

This initiative aims to provide support, empowerment, and opportunities for single mothers who are weavers.

With deep compassion and a commitment to uplift them. the foundation is taking a significant step forward in creating a brighter future for these women," said Pavithra Halkatti.

Through this programme, the foundation will provide support for education and medical needs on a regular basis for women from the sales of merchandise commissioned by Pavithra Halkatti. "We will ensure that these mothers can provide for their families and pursue their weaving profession without any compromise. International Mother's Day is an ideal occasion to launch the Helping Hand Programme," said Halkatti.

Pavithra Halkatti is a businesswoman, lawyer, social entrepreneur, philanthropist and the granddaughter of M. Rajsekara Murthy, a senior politician in the Karnataka and central government of India and great granddaughter of Vachana Pitamaha Dr P G Halkatti, a towering literary figure and social reformer.

"The foundation is taking a significant step forward in creating a brighter future for these women. Through this programme, the foundation will provide support for education and medical needs on a regular basis for women from the sales of the merchandise. We will ensure that these mothers can provide for their families and pursue their weaving profession without any compromise. International Mother's Day is an ideal occasion to launch the Helping Hand Programme.

– Pavithra Halkatti, businesswoman, lawyer, social entrepreneur, and philanthropist

XPRESS FOCUS SMD INITIATIVE

AN INSPIRING MOTHER AND GREAT WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR

DR BV RAO'S PILLAR OF STRENGTH

We bring the story of Dr BV Rao, fondly known as the Father of Indian Poultry Industry, and his better half Uttara Devi Rao, who essayed a significant role in his journey of building up the iconic Venkateshwara Hatcheries which changed the course of the Indian poultry industry

Nurturing a dream

Uttara Devi had the conviction that her husband had the potential to shape not only his own future, but that of a massive industry, and encouraged him to start his own poultry farm

Behind every successful man, there is a woman, goes the saying. Behind the epoch-making success of the late Dr BV Rao, the man who turned around India's poultry industry, there was Mrs Uttara Devi Rao, an iron-willed and warm-hearted lady, the soulmate of Dr Rao and the inspiration behind her husband's every successful step. The story of Dr BV Rao and that of Venkateshwara Hatcheries would be incomplete without acknowledging the inspirational role played by Mrs Uttara Devi in 1969, when Dr Rao quit his job with Arbor Acres Talegaon, near Pune, and moved back to Hyderabad, he was not yet mentally prepared to plunge into his own venture. He was planning to take up a job as a senior executive with another poultry breeding company. But Uttara Devi had the conviction that her husband had the potential to shape not only his own future, but that of a massive industry, and encouraged him to start his own poultry farm.

During the years of their stay at Talegaon, she used to travel to Hyderabad frequently to set up a poultry farm at Inzapur, a hamlet near Hyderabad. Uttara Devi had been systematically saving money out of Dr Rao's modest salary. A poultry farm with 9,000 birds was started here, which in the later years, became Venkateshwara Hatcheries, and changed the course of the Indian poultry industry. Today, the group is popularly known the world over as 'Venky's'.

Even after the farm was established, Dr Rao could not devote his full time for its management, as he had given his word to his erstwhile employers — Arbor Acres — to visit their farms from time to time and provide technical guidance for a few months. In such a scenario, Mrs Uttara Devi shouldered the responsibility of managing the poultry farm single-handedly, even though she did not have prior experience. She handled the job ably for about nine months, until Dr Rao was free from his commitment to Arbor Acres.

Dr BV Rao

Uttara Devi

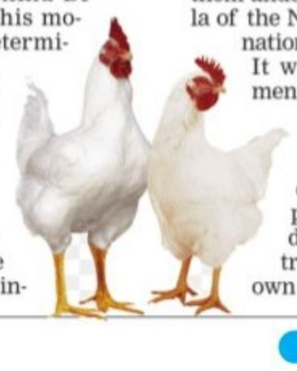
Again, in 1971, when William Todd of Babcock Poultry Farm, Ithaca, New York, offered the sole franchise of Babcock for India, Dr Rao was hesitant. He felt that it would be too big a risk, as it was a huge project involving huge investment

He wanted to negotiate a franchise arrangement for South India alone,. that meant a lower risk. But Uttara Devi encouraged Dr Rao to take up the offer for the whole of India. She sacrificed her jewellery to raise seed capital to start the new company, Venkateshwara Hatcheries Pvt. Ltd.

In the '70s, there was a change in the import policy of the Government of India where imports of only pure lines were allowed.

It was an extremely tough job to create two world-class Pure Line breeding farms -- one for the layers and the other for broilers, and simultaneously negotiate the joint venture agreements and obtain the import licenses, etc. During those testing times, Uttara Devi stood like a rock behind Dr Rao, boosting his morale and his determination to succeed - and the rest, as they say, is history.

The NECC the most important contribution of Dr BV Rao to the Indian poultry industry - and particularly to the layer farmers. Egg trade in India was - and to some extent, still is dominated by a handful of middlemen, who determine the selling price of eggs. The price fixed by them was, invariably, exploitative, eroding the economic viability of the farmers. In early 1981, unable to withstand the impact of rising input costs and non-remunerative egg prices, thousands of small farmers across the country had to close their farms. The very survival of the industry was threatened.



Dr Rao took upon himself the challenge of changing this age-old domination of traders and empowering the farmers to shape their destiny. He called upon farmers to unite under one banner and defy the system of traders deciding the prices.

He travelled to every nook and corner of India, addressed more than 303 meetings attended by over one lakh farmers, and motivated them to sell eggs only at rates declared by the farmers themselves. His clarion call 'My Egg, My Price, My life' had a tremendous impact on the farmers and brought them under the united umbrella of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC).

It was a unique movement in many ways. Never in the past had the producers of an agricultural commodity displayed the courage to defy the established trade and decide their own selling price. NECC, with more than 25,000 layer farmers as members, is the largest association of poultry farmers in the world. Apart from declaring farmers' own rates, NECC also undertakes egg promotion campaigns, export promotion, market intervention, and development of rural marketing/distribution channels for eggs.

Dr BV Rao was indeed destined to become the 'Father of Indian Poultry Industry'. But, without the inspiration and support from Uttara Devi, would he have embarked on his journey to realise his dream? Dr Rao himself answered this question. Years later, speaking at a function organised to felicitate him on being conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri, he said: "Behind my every successful step, there was the unseen hand of Uttara. But for the support, encouragement and inspiration I got from her, I would have never reached where I am today."

Dr BV Rao dreamed that one day in the near future, India will became the top country in the world in terms of poultry. For him, it was not just a dream -- it was his conviction that India can do it, and he had made it his life's mission to create the infrastructure base for production, and to strengthen the marketing structure and empower the farmers, so as to prepare our poultry industry to reach and keep that level.

After Dr Rao passed away in 1996, his daughter Anuradha J Desai became the chairperson of VH group and continues on the path laid out by her illustrious father. As part of its CSR activities, it has been working on causes such as eradication of hunger, education, nutrition, healthcare etc.

The poultry industry has managed to consistently provide protein food at a lower price and successfully fight malnutrition.

It also gave an incredible boost to the agriculture sector, thanks to 60% maize and soya consumption by poultry. The industry has also created employment for lakhs of people.